

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	275
Leading Articles:—	
America and China	276
How to Deal with Asiatic Emigration	276
A Trade Mark Case	276
A Tiresome Agitation	277
Japanese Elections	277
Hongkong Legislative Council	277
Finance Committee	282
Hongkong Sanitary Board	282
Kulangsu (Amoy) Municipal Council	282
The Late Mr. Rennie	283
Correspondence	
Junk Bay Mills	284
Plague and Rats	284
Supreme Court	285
Hongkong Horticultural Society	286
Tientsin	286
Tokyo Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.	286
Commercial	287
Shipping	289

BIRTHS.

On April 27th, at 1 Austin Avenue, Kowloon, Hongkong, the wife of HJARN AAGAARD, of a son.
On April 11th, at Newchwang, the wife of W. F. HARLEY, of a daughter.
On April 18th, at Shanghai, to Rev. and Mrs. A. C. BOWEN, a son.
On April 20th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. ERIC MOLLER, a son.
On April 20th, at Shanghai, the wife of V. WATSON PAUL, of a son.
On April 22nd, at Benarth, Walse, the wife of George Appleby, I.M. Customs, Canton, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On April 21st, at Shanghai, CLARA LOUISE MARIE of Portland, Oregon, to ALFRED LINDSAY BLECHYNDEN, of Shanghai.

DEATH.

On April 21st, at Shanghai, Miss JUDITH HAGSTROM, aged 33 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CH.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 3rd April and the parcel mails closed in London for dispatch by the all-sea route on March 20th and for dispatch overland on the 3rd April, arrived per s.s. *Delta* on April 29th.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The second coxswain of the steam launch "Canada," who pluckily attempted to save Mr. Rennie from drowning, was called before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday and presented with a \$10 note.

Messrs E. S. Kadoorie & Co. are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Singapore informing them that the crushing of the Rand Australian Gold Mining Co. for the past period of four weeks yielded 1965 ozs gold from 4819 tons stone.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals acknowledges, with thanks, the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—Colonial Government \$300.

The Peking Government has instructed the Viceroy at Canton to make a detailed report upon Hainan Island in South China with a view to opening the whole island to the commerce of the Treaty Powers of China. So far there are only two treaty ports in the Island viz: Kiungchow and Pakhoi.

A Swiss who shot himself at Shanghai on April 20th was Fritz Ingold, the representative in China of the Bernese Alps Condensed Milk. He was staying at 104 N. Ezechuen Road Extension, the residence of Captain and Mrs. Stringer and financial embarrassment is said to have been the cause of his rash act. Dr. Jackson was summoned immediately the rash deed was discovered and Mr. Ingold was taken to the Nursing Home, where he is now. The French Consul was informed of the occurrence. Mr. Ingold is expected to survive, but will probably be totally blind.

It is stated in a Mukden telegram to the "Asahi" that in consequence of a strong appeal by Tang Shao-yi, Governor of Mukden, in regard to the present financial difficulties in Manchuria, the Peking Government has complied with his request to be allowed to float a foreign loan of Taels 10,000,000 guaranteed by the Finance Department. Taels 5,000,000, will be utilized by the Department, while the remainder will be employed in Manchuria. On his way home to Mukden from Peking, Tang Shao-yi will call on H.E. Yuen Shih-kai to ask him to transfer the gold mines on the Amur, and some others which are under the control of the Viceroy of Pechili, to the jurisdiction of the Viceroy of Manchuria for the purpose of relieving the Manchurian finances.

By the departure of Mr. C. H. Grace for Home on April 25th the Colony loses another old and popular resident, for though Mr. Grace goes home on twelve months' leave, it is unlikely that he will return to the East. Mr. Grace has spent upwards of thirty years in Hongkong. He came out to the East in the service of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. and was assistant superintendent when in 1836 he left the Company's service to take up the Secretaryship of the Hongkong Club, a position he has filled with great credit to himself and satisfaction to the members for the long period of twenty-two years. Mr. Grace, in fact, was regarded as an ideal Club Secretary, and the respect he won as an official by his urbanity and unfailing courtesy, ripened into personal esteem and strong friendships. He is one of the oldest living members of the Amateur Dramatic Club, and whoever can claim longer than four years' residence in the Colony will retain pleasing recollections of both Mr. and Mrs. Grace on the stage of our theatre. They were for many years the best amateur actors in the Colony and their performances as a rule were such as would have ensured for them renown had they chosen the stage as a profession. As a vocalist also Mr. Grace in bye-gone days contributed much to the gaiety of life in the Colony. His connection with Freemasonry too must have added considerably to his list of friends, and the best wishes of veritable "troops of friends" will follow him to his little Devonshire retreat. Mr. Grace left by the P. and O. "Pera."

H.E. the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council:—Ordinance No. 5 of 1908.—An Ordinance to amend the Chinese Extradition Ordinance 1889. Ordinance No. 6 of 1908.—An Ordinance to authorize the making of Bye laws by the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited.

By Imperial sanction the Waiwupu has sent a circular to the Viceroys and Governors throughout China concerning the reception of foreign missionaries in the various provinces. The circular states that in March 1899, the defunct Tsung-li Yamén made certain rules concerning the reception of foreign missionaries by Viceroys, Governors, Taotais and other Chinese officials, according to their respective rank and title. Consequently some foreign missionaries went so far as to use official sedan chairs, umbrellas etc., until the ignorant classes were led to believe that foreign missionaries were the equals in rank of Chinese Viceroys and Governors. Thus it is necessary to abolish those rules to enable ordinary Chinese officials to receive foreign missionaries publicly as equals.

OPIUM IN SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT.

THE CLOSED HOUSES.

An interesting event took place on April 18th at 2 o'clock at the Town Hall, Shanghai. This was the drawing of lots by proprietors of opium smoking divans within the International Settlement as to whose establishments should be closed in accordance with the resolution at the Ratepayers' Meeting last month providing for the closing of 25 per cent of the opium divans and shops by July 1. Owing to a rumour amongst the Chinese that the European manner of drawing lots was untrustworthy, a drum holding the lots was taken to the Town Hall and the lots were drawn in the same way as is being done at the Kiangnan and lotteries for prizes every month in the Chinese suburbs. This procedure apparently satisfied the Chinese opium divan proprietors as being "all straight." Three prominent Chinese gentlemen were present, namely Messrs. Shen Tun-ho (Director of the Imperial Bank of China) Char Laifong (Compradore to Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Co.) and Yü Yaohing (Compradore to the Netherlands Bank), the gentlemen having been asked by the Municipal Council to witness the proceedings in order to give confidence to the Chinese concerned. The Foreign gentlemen present at the drawing were Messrs. A. Johnsford (Overseer of Taxes) and F. L. Allen and F. A. Sampson, Assistant Overseers of Taxes. Mr. Shen Tun-ho made a few remarks to those present in Chinese in which he reminded his hearers that this scheme for reducing the consumption of opium not only throughout the Chinese governed portions of the Empire but also in the foreign settlements of China was one that emanated from their Imperial Majesties and the Government; hence those doing business in opium were really obeying the Imperial mandates in reducing opium smoking divans and shops. The result of the drawing showed that 359 opium establishments, among them many of the largest in Shanghai, are to close their business by the July 1 next.

AMERICA AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, 27th April.)

We do not know if it strikes anyone else in the same way, but the attitude of the American Government vis-à-vis China has latterly seemed to us singularly unworthy. Similar conduct in an individual would be called "sneaking" and hypocritical. We bawl the American Eagle in the Dragon's ear, are your best friend, your only sincere and disinterested friend. The waiver with regard to part of the American share of the Chinese indemnity was a bare-faced bid for Chinese favour, at a time when America was very much out of favour, and at a time when a fat surplus made it cheap philanthropy. It was a lead that ought not to have been made except after consultation with the other Powers; that is, morally speaking—we do not suppose any Power ever dreamed of protesting. Either the Americans claimed too much in the first place, and by this means meant an act of honest restitution, or they intended thereby to force such of the others as could not afford to make China a present of what they had spent into the position of less favoured nations. It was not particularly smart diplomacy, for the Chinese are not quite so simple as to feel grateful when SHYLOCK (as they view those to whom they pay indemnities) offers to compound for eight ounces of flesh instead of sixteen. Likewise, until the Americans on the western seaboard change their behaviour towards Chinese immigrants, the Stars and Stripes are not going to be viewed with pleased smiles on this side of the Pacific. That we have not misrepresented the American position very seriously we feel assured when we take into consideration other manifestations. At Shanghai Mr. TAYLOR included in one of his orations a magniloquent assurance that America would be glad to stand by China if she got into trouble, and the Japanese have themselves recently (in consequence of American communications relating to Manchuria) come to the conclusion that America desires to "strengthen her position in that region," and that Uncle Sam is "actuated by considerations other than his desire to further the interests of China." We are in a position to do more than suspect that American Consuls "up North" have been prosecuting a vigorous anti-Japanese campaign, though not openly. There is a curious similarity between various communications circulating in the foreign press in the Far East, and the public is intended thereby to draw the inference that there is quite a body of public opinion in favour of interference. If all these communications could be traced to one or two Consulates, as we fancy they could, they would carry less weight, especially as their animus is but ill-concealed. It is not only Japan, however. The American Consul at Harbin has been protesting against Russian aggression, and we encounter the curious circumstance of at least one Japanese journal defending Russia against charges of treaty disregard. The *Asahi* points out that since Japan restored Manchuria to China, English, American, and German exports to the latter have shown a large increase, and for part of that at least they ought to thank Japan. While we do not go so far as to support this claim to gratitude, we do without hesitation say that American Consuls in Manchuria should be more careful and more considerate in what they publish abroad. They may consider that Japan is pursuing a selfish policy—and we cannot see why it

should be unselfish—but the way they have been circulating their opinions does not convince us of their altruism. It is the old, old story, familiar to China, of wrangling over the division of the spoil.

HOW TO DEAL WITH ASIATIC EMIGRATION.

(Daily Press, April 28th.)

Under the heading of "Asia contra Mundum" the well known political writer "Viator" deals in a recent number of the *Fortnightly Review* with the Asiatic emigration, which has of late attracted so much attention. His views upon the subject are well worthy of careful consideration, the more so that he is indisposed to attach too much importance to mere speculation upon such questions, and recognises that in most instances there is some factor not taken into account but which, as time proceeds, becomes developed, and provides a solution which the most far-sighted have not foreseen. Making every allowance for this, "Viator" nevertheless foresees serious difficulty in the solution of the Asiatic problem which has of late been forced upon our attention in so many directions; in our own Colonies—more especially the Transvaal and Canada—and also in California. The plain facts of the matter are not ignored by the writer. He accepts them at their true value and does not in any way attempt to gloss them over in order to favour his own views or to minimise the danger which he would if it were possible gladly conclude to have been exaggerated. The undoubted facts are that there is an emigrating force in Asia—that is speaking generally, in India, China and Japan—which must be reckoned with and which cannot be suppressed; that it is impossible to deny the right of white Colonies or nations to refuse to commit economic suicide by admission of masses of Asiatics, whose cheap mode of life enables them to oust those of European stock from their ordinary means of livelihood in their own countries; and that, (so far as great Britain is concerned) the Imperial Government cannot possibly interfere with the discretion of the Colonies in a matter so intimately concerning their internal welfare. Under such circumstances, he concludes that matters are tending in a direction which must lead to difficulty in the not distant future, unless something be done to meet the exigencies of the case. What has to be feared is that the exclusion of Asiatics from our Colonies and from America may have the effect of combining Asia against the Aryan races, and that a great struggle may in consequence ensue. If, for instance, China, India and Japan were united there would be a force which it would be difficult for Western nations to contend against. In taking this view, "Viator" does not run into any extremes of pessimism. He points out that vast numbers of troops, even when well organised, will not be decisive in military operations, as there is a definite limit to the powers of mobilisation. This, it may be remarked, was amply illustrated during the recent Russo-Japanese war, when the trans-Siberian railway from which so much had been expected, proved lamentably disappointing—and as respects operations at sea, he acknowledges the undoubted fact that the East could have no chance against combined action of the West, even though assisted by the strength of Japan, and would fail in the direction of funds in any such conflict. On such grounds as these, he properly refrains from extreme views, and concludes that the subject as a whole

need not be looked upon with panic; but, while admitting thus, he points out the seriousness of the difficulty as likely to lead to strained relations and to the closing in the East of the "open door" to trade, to such nations as close their ports to Asiatic immigrants.

With respect to the question in its bearing upon India, "Viator" has no doubt that the discontent there is real, and he urges that some steps should be taken by Great Britain to meet it. The suggestion which he throws out is a practical one, and may possibly be taken into consideration at headquarters with useful results.

He observes that "the British Empire alone seems in a position to solve the problem of Asiatic immigration so far as it is a question of internal politics for our dominions regarded as a whole. Among the territories over which we possess absolute control, those obviously marked out in connection with the present question are British East Africa and perhaps the Soudan"—and he goes on to suggest that Mr. Morley "might make his administration memorable by creating an Indian Colonial Empire"—in fact a species of "New India."

The suggestion is apparently a very sound one. The plan would give to Indians every opportunity of emigrating to places in the British Empire where they would be fairly entitled to the advantages of their cheap mode of living, seeing that they alone could stand the strain of the climates, and it is further pointed out that there would be no reason why any other Asiatic race should be excluded. This course it is admitted would form only a partial remedy, but "Viator" justly observes it "is the only approach to a remedy that has yet been suggested" adding "our alternative to this is to do nothing, than which we could do nothing more dangerous"—a view with which all who are acquainted with the subject will fully agree.

A TRADEMARK CASE.

(Daily Press, 29th April.)

"Now it's our turn." That Florida Water case has really been tried by a jury numbering hundreds, and notwithstanding the strong denunciation by the Chief Justice, we believe a plebiscite would give an overwhelming verdict of approval to the decision actually made. After all, there was no ticklish legal question to decide. The issues which the Chief Justice insisted on defining to the jury were such as could be decided by ordinarily intelligent laymen, and so the opinion of two men, even though one of them was a judge, can scarcely be reckoned sufficiently weighty as against that of the six to warrant the extraordinarily sweeping allegation that there had been a bigger fraud in this case than in any other within the Judge's Hongkong experience. That remark could scarcely be accepted as a compliment by the business men who had spent three days considering the case without fee or reward. It would also cause wider sympathy for the successful defendants and no doubt the advertisement thus secured will result in an increase of turnover that in time may compensate them for the unrefunded costs incurred in the action. We confess to some sympathy with the defendants, as a result of reading the evidence, and if we had any use for Florida Water, would feel personal satisfaction that a firm which sells practically the same article for half the price charged by the complaining firm is not to be driven out of the market. We feel reasonably certain that the average person does not worry

about the name of the manufacturer of the stuff he buys. Apparently Florida Water is some sort of scent, and we take it the person who wants a particular scent wants one that has pleased his or her olfactory nerves before. To ensure getting the same effect they want to secure the similar cause, and so they may remember that the name of the liquid first used was Florida Water. We take it all Florida Waters (and there appear to be many on the market) stink in something like unison, with, perhaps, varying degrees of power. Those who like the scent very much will want it strong, as if it were tea or tobacco, and some of those might perhaps make a point of remembering the label on the bottle so as to be sure of getting what they had before. But as a drop of Florida Water "by any other name would smell as sweet," though it may be not always as strong, we fancy few go deliberately to demand that manufactured by a particular firm. The value of a firm name is rarely in the quality of its goods, but in the quantity of its advertisements. There are some names which we are not allowed to forget, and we involuntarily associate them with the articles we may be thinking of buying; but it is rare indeed that, on consideration, we cannot be induced to take some other firm's product, especially if (as in this case of Florida water) it be just as good for our purpose and far cheaper. On the question of fact in this case, as to whether a person could be defrauded into buying a picture of two girls instead of a picture of a fountain, we do not enter. We have ascertained that the name and the bottle are "standards" used by dozens of firms, and with regard to the label we are quite satisfied to accept the opinion of the half dozen jurymen who said that there had been no fraud. Obviously, the case involved wider issues than the business of one firm. It appears that, had the complainant succeeded, the right of several other firms to continue manufacturing Florida Water would have been challenged. This, as they all seem to be content with smaller prices, would have been hard upon that section of the public which likes to seek of Florida Water, and for their sakes we find ourselves rejoicing with that larger jury which, for various reasons, had been anticipating the verdict of the jury actually empanelled.

A TIRESOME AGITATION.

(Daily Press, April 30th.)

The Newchwang Chamber of Commerce cannot, in all probability, consist of many merchants, and of its comparatively small number of constituents it would be unreasonable to deny that some may have fallen under the influence of what our Tientsin correspondent has called the unreasonable anti-Japanese sentiment that has been and is being assiduously cultivated in the north. In these circumstances, it may be that we are not obliged to accept its lead with regard to the Fakumen Railway question. There is our natural inclination to support the interests of a British Syndicate, of course, and incidentally it may be as well to admit that any British support of the Newchwang Chamber's attitude would be, on the face of it, pro-British rather than pro-Chinese. No one believes that Japan fought the Russians with the purely altruistic motive of restoring Manchuria to the Chinese, and we are not going to lend any countenance to the suggestion that the anti-Japanese motions of the Newchwang merchants and others are inspired solely by a desire to see the Chinese sovereignty restored intact. The British Government's

decision is against the British Syndicate and against Chinese claims in this instance, and Hongkong has very good reason for falling into line with the Imperial Government, in the fact that the Japanese provision for bidding a competing line is practically duplicated in that convention with China by which Britain safeguards the interests of the Kowloon-Canton Railway. If China's right to construct the Fakumen line parallel or nearly parallel with the South Manchuria Railway had been admitted, it would have been impossible to deny her right to construct a competitive line at this end of the Empire, which we certainly have been protesting against at the first suggestion of its likelihood. The *Japan Daily Mail* deals analytically and lucidly with the arguments of the Newchwang Chamber of Commerce, which were published in our columns. Its best point seems to be as follows:

It seeks to prove too much. Thus, after denying that branch lines running westward from the South Manchuria Railway system "would be a sufficient substitute for the proposed Fakumen road, the Resolution of the Chamber adds that such lines would necessarily do incalculable injury to the prospects and trade of the port of Newchwang, which is the natural outlet and distributing base for the country in question by diverting from it to Tairen its legitimate trade." If this proposition be carefully considered, it amounts to a distinct admission that the Fakumen road would be seriously detrimental to the prosperity of the South Manchuria Railway. For if by substituting for the Fakumen road feeders of the South Manchuria Railway "incalculable injury" would be done to the prospects and trade of Newchwang, which for the purposes of the Chamber's argument is considered solely with reference to the Chinese railway system, then does it not plainly follow that the construction of the Fakumen line would do incalculable injury to the prospects and trade of Tairen, in other words to the prospects and trade of the South Manchuria Railway?

But for our part we see no reason now to debate the point whether the British Syndicate's undertaking would be detrimental to the Japanese line. The British Government has decided that on that point the Japanese decision must be accepted as final, and as Japan's decision is against the Hsinmintun-Fakumen line, there is no more to be said, except by those who are not afraid to stir up antipathies and bad feelings regardless of consequences.

JAPANESE ELECTIONS.

(Daily Press, May 1st.)

About the middle of this month the General Election takes place in Japan. We published not long ago a well-informed account of the various political parties that have arisen in Japan, and now it remains only to make a few general observations on the changes that have come over Japan's domestic politics. There is not very much to say about it, so we select the topic as convenient for an issue in which our columns, as will be noted, are unusually congested. We learn that the forthcoming General Election is to be a business one, the candidates including more commercial men than ever before. As trade is becoming notoriously the most conspicuous feature of Japan's national economy, this was to be expected, but foreigners will none-the-less watch for the result with great interest. The possibilities from their point of view of a Parliament largely composed of business representatives are obviously immense. The commercial class in Japan has lately begun to feel its power, as witness the influence of the Chambers of Commerce, which are taken very seriously and strongly supported. One "plank" of the new candidates is retrenchment coupled with

opposition to the increased taxation. The better class Japanese are also pointing out with satisfaction that a class of candidates hitherto no credit to Japanese politics is or appears to be disappearing. These are the demagogues, the "so-called professional politicians," who are coming forward in much smaller numbers this time. One authority gladly accepts this as an indication that the bulk of the electorate is becoming too intelligent and self-respecting to tolerate this class any longer. The papers are already devoting much space to election matters, and in another two or three weeks we trust we may be able to record results in accordance with the laudable hopes now being expressed.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held yesterday in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE TROOPS, COLONEL C. H. DARLING.

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, J.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES, (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. Commander BASIL R. H. TAYLOR, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Dr. HO-KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers—Report of the Registrar-General.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial minutes Nos. 16, 17 and 18, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 6), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL.

The HON. MR. CHATHAM—I rise to move that the bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Building Ordinance 1903 and the Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance 1903 be now read a second time. Since this bill was introduced, sir, and read a first time it has been very extensively criticised by the local architects on behalf of the European and Chinese property owners in this Colony. They have submitted statements of certain amendments which they considered should be made and meetings have been held with Your Excellency and the amendments were fully discussed and a great many of them have been adopted. They have shown perhaps a little undue nervousness in criticising the proposals because in one case they have suggested that the word modify should be altered to reduce. Now Sir, the word modify or its equivalent modification is used repeatedly and I have

never heard it suggested that modification should mean something less than was supposed in the clause in connection with which that term was used. One of the principal features of the Bill is the concentration under the building authority of all matters which affect the construction of buildings. The submission of plans to the Medical Officer of Health which require his signature to the issue of certificates will be dispensed with and it is hoped considerable time will be saved in the passing of the plans. I propose only to refer to the principal matters dealt with in the Bill before the Council, because the objects and reasons of the Bill have been fully set forth both as regards the Bill itself and subsequent amendments which have been circulated to the members. I may say, Sir, it is proposed to withdraw the definition of external air in the section introduced because it would operate rather harshly upon parties who wished to erect a building of moderate height who happened to have opposite to this proposed building another of much greater height belonging to some neighbouring owner. The proportion of floor space and cubic space per head is very much reduced, Sir, in the amended Bill. The provision of a similar sort was incorporated in the original ordinance of 1903 but withdrawn when that Ordinance was amended at a later period. When certain other amendments which have been made in the present Bill are before the Council it is hoped that it will have greater effect and be found a useful provision. Section 101a—a new section—has been introduced to apply to existing buildings when they are being altered. The provision has regard to the thickness of walls which apply to new buildings. Under the present ordinance the requirements as regards the thickness of walls are limited to new buildings only. It is evidently absurd to reconstruct a portion of an existing building of less thickness than that required for new buildings. Another section—103a—is to regulate the construction of partition walls principally with a view to acquiring some more substantial form of construction than can be insisted on at the present time and with a view of securing the use of nonflammable materials, especially in places which are so densely populated as are many of the buildings in this Colony. Section 107 refers to party walls. At the present time there are no restrictions regarding the openings in party walls and when a man makes an opening he does it where he pleases and in the course of time that opening becomes a source of danger to the building. Section 151 introduces some amendments as regards the lighting of buildings of a greater depth than 40 feet as the present provisions in the Ordinance are found to be somewhat too drastic and it is hoped this alteration will meet the requirements of the case. The Amending Section 153 is based largely upon the recommendations of the Cubicles Committee which included four unofficial members of this Council and one of the leading architects, and the proposals now made I presume will recommend themselves to the members of this Council. In connection with that clause it is proposed to introduce an amendment with regard to houses on the reclamation but it will be limited to houses not exceeding one hundred feet in depth. Section 153, which it is proposed to renumber as 154a, provides for a scheme for improving existing blocks of buildings. That scheme, Sir, if it becomes at all general will undoubtedly confer a very substantial improvement in the condition of the Colony and I think the improvement will be affected at what may be regarded as a moderate cost. In section 175 it is not proposed to delete the words "by the owner." That has been a bone of contention on previous occasions. There can be no doubt that it was the intention of the original Ordinance that the space specified should be provided by the owners and the provision has been in force for many years. It is not peculiar to Hongkong because it may be said to be universal that open spaces must be provided by the owner. Section 179 deals with open spaces and scavenging lanes. A few amendments are introduced to that, Sir, but I do not think they are of very vital importance. In section 180 the Government, Sir, are not prepared to accept a lane as part of the open space to be provided. The modification is contained in paragraph 8, section 1, and that is considered sufficient to enable each case to be dealt with

on its merits. In section 185, Sir, concerning the obstruction in streets on which domestic buildings front, I think that any member who cares to perambulate a portion of our city in which these streets are located would come to the conclusion that they are undoubtedly restricted now by all manner of obstructions in the shape of stalls and accumulations of merchandise of all descriptions. In section 186 it is proposed to substitute the word building for domestic building as regards the maintenance of private streets. I think that will commend itself to members, because there are streets for instance in the neighbourhood of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank which are very much used and from a public health point of view should be maintained in as sanitary condition as other streets. Section 222 and 223 relate to steps which must be taken before any work can be commenced or resumed. Some very considerable modifications have been introduced into this section and they have been also recast and arranged so as to set forth more clearly what the provisions are in each specific case whether it is commencement or resumption. Section 264a is a new section which is very important as it delegates to the Building Authority the power of modification or exemption with regard to certain sections which is now vested in the Board or in the Governor in Council. It is felt that in many cases the modification required is of such a slight extent that an undue amount of delay is involved in getting plans through these two bodies. A great deal of time must necessarily be occupied in dealing with matters of that description by the present course laid down in the Ordinance. Section 267 is also an important one as it admits of the construction of a simpler class of buildings which is intended of course to apply more to the outlying districts. The provisions of the ordinance are very largely framed with regard to the buildings in the city itself or the more populous parts of Kowloon and they can scarcely be said to meet in a satisfactory way the requirements where buildings are less dense and the developments are not as advanced as they are. With these few words, Sir I move the second reading of the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—To rightly understand the complex questions involved in the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, and to appreciate at their proper value the conclusions arrived at by the Sanitary Commissioners, one needs, I think, to revert to the history of its origin, to have followed the course of its development and to be familiar with the events which culminated in this enquiry. The Colony of Hongkong, Sir, came into the possession of Great Britain at a period when, throughout the world, the principles of advanced sanitation were little understood and even less practised. It came within the Empire as a prize of war; its sole value was considered to be its strategic position; its development as a trading centre was neither intended or desired; its future lay unplanned; its commercial prospects unheeded. No wonder then, that neglected, unguided, it fell into evil ways and maturing in an atmosphere of drift, it bred the evils of congested areas, insanitation and disease. Not till 1884 was there any serious attempt to grapple with the subject of sanitation; not till the first outbreak of plague in 1894 did the community awake to a realization of its danger, nor did official apathy, heedless of warning from Dr. Ayres and others, yield to a sense of its obvious duty. Then under the spur of panic, under threatened injury to its commercial interests, the Colony attempted to do in haste what it ought long since to have done at leisure; it attempted to rectify in a moment the mischief of many years' growth, and it has now for some years past been paying in full measure the penalty attendant upon indifference and neglect. But whatever blame attaches to individuals, applies only to those who in the years previous to 1884 allowed these evils to germinate and develop. The outcome of this state of affairs was the original and drastic Ordinance of 1903, described in the Commissioners' Report as the work of a novice. If, Sir, the deliberations of nearly ten years, embracing the recommendations of Messrs. Chadwick and Simpson, experts sent from home at the express wish of the public; embracing consultations with architects, medical authorities and lawyers; embracing the study of

every known interest involved; references to India and other countries; the whole of them collated and elaborated to suit local conditions; the whole of them discussed and criticised ad nauseam in public; if this, Sir, be correctly described as the work of a novice, it would be interesting to know in what consists the work of an expert. The fault, now laid bare by experience, lay not in that the Ordinance was ill considered, ill digested; but that it violated the great principle which underlies all sound legislation, and which is that laws should be based only upon experience and fact, and that the human intellect is incapable of creating them to fit conditions not yet known. And this principle been observed, the Ordinance would have been framed with elasticity to deal with circumstances as they arose; and I submit that no amount of tinkering, no number of amending Ordinances will avail, until this principle be taken to heart and followed. Speaking from personal experience of plague measures, and conversant as I am with the work of the Sanitary department in past years, I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without commenting, with your Excellency's permission, on the charges of incapacity and corruption levelled at the whole department in the Commissioners' report, especially where they say there was reason to fear that corruption and bribery extended throughout the staff of British inspectors. True it is that instances of corruption came to light during the enquiry, but so far as the evidence has been made public there is nothing in it to warrant such an assumption as that I have referred to; and considering the difficulty of obtaining suitable men for such unpalatable work, considering that in the first instance Inspectors had to be garnered from whatever local sources were available, it would have been wonderful indeed if such an organization as the Sanitary department had been evolved at once without flaw and without fault; and if, Sir, corruption of individuals be accepted as evidence incriminating the whole, then very few of us dare lift the first stone; for what business in the Colony is there which during recent years has not in some manner been victimised by the dishonesty of individual employees. Similarly, when wholesale charges of incapacity are preferred, it is well not to allow details to unduly sway one's judgment, but to bear in mind the stupendous task which had to be performed under conditions of difficulty and discouragement; in face of the obstinacy, ignorance and resistance of the very people on whose behalf these measures were being tried; then to give credit where credit is due, and frankly acknowledge the good work accomplished. But from beginning to end of the Commissioners' report there is not one word of approbation, not the faintest meed of praise; everything from the start has been wrongly done and practically the whole Sanitary staff are, by implication, branded either as rogues or fools. Of all the mistakes, Sir, that have followed in the wake of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, not the least of them, I think, is the injustice, I might even say the cruel injustice, to thus bespatter the characters of those men who, whatever their faults, whatever their shortcomings, in the dark days following 1894 did at least fulfil their onerous and dangerous task to the best of their ability and with loyalty to the public weal. I do not say that none of the Commissioners' strictures were justified. I do not deny that the Sanitary department needed reform; but I do say that in criticising the work of that department, allowance should be made for the difficulties that had to be met, and that it is unfair to judge to-day when most of those difficulties have disappeared. Sir, despite the utterances of some, despite the criticisms of the Press, and despite the findings of this Commission, I believe the majority of men who are acquainted with the circumstances will declare unhesitatingly, that notwithstanding expense, notwithstanding mistakes and notwithstanding abuses, a great and lasting improvement has been effected in the Sanitary condition of the Colony; those who can testify to the evil slums and stench ridden streets of former days will not withhold praise when they pass through the clean and wholesome thoroughfares of to-day; those who like myself were wont to exhibit as

sights of the town the closely packed underground opium dens and unutterable squalor of Chinatown will now search for such sights in vain; and if plague, that unsolved problem in other lands than ours, if plague has not been altogether banished from our midst, the accomplished results of the Sanitary department's endeavours in that direction are sufficiently encouraging to justify a continuance of their work with unabated vigour. As regards the Commissions' recommendations and the provisions of the Bill before us, setting aside trivialities with which the report is somewhat overburdened, there appear to me to be three and only three important suggestions to consider. One is that the Building Authority shall be placed under the direct control of the Sanitary Board, another that there should be a simple form of appeal; another is that the Sanitary department shall be run by a Board having an unofficial majority, under a President of its own selection, which if it mean anything at all, means that the department shall be converted into a sort of half fledged municipal corporation possessed of sufficient powers to work mischief, but insufficiently equipped to perform the functions appertaining to a genuine municipality. As to whether the Building Authority should be placed under the Sanitary Board, there are no doubt good arguments for and against; all however that the public wants and is concerned with is efficiency, they want their plans and arrangements put through with a minimum of circumlocution and with a maximum of indulgence, that their wishes will, as far as public interests allow, be granted. To the public it is immaterial whether the Building Authority is attached to one department or another; and if, as would appear to be the case, the proposed arrangement results in efficiency, the public, I feel sure, will be satisfied with it. On the question of appeal there should certainly be some simple method by which persons feeling aggrieved can obtain a hearing not only by the President of the Board but by the Board itself. I think that much irritation in the past has been due to a conviction that the Sanitary department has acted with unnecessary harshness, and I feel sure that if individual grievances were given a patient and sympathetic hearing, this friction would give way to a sense of confidence in the department, which would go far towards securing the co-operation of the Chinese, where now there is resistance and misunderstanding. The whole Sanitary department from President downwards should understand that the law was not framed for the purpose of harassing and annoying; that their business is to educate and assist; to give effect to the regulations in an intelligent and tolerant manner; to concede where concession is possible; and above all avoid a senseless interpretation of the law. Unless this spirit animate the department, unless the high officials protect the public against the misplaced zeal, stupidity, and arrogance of subordinates, there will continue to be irritation, antagonism, and trouble. And as most of the friction in the past has undoubtedly been due to administrative incapacity to apply the law in a common sense and reasonable fashion, so the future success or failure of the reorganised department will depend largely upon the broadmindedness of its President, who whilst on the one hand will carry out the unalterable determination of the government to cleanse this town in the interests of public health, will on the other hand initiate changes and reforms where the law is found to be inapplicable. And it is to be hoped that when appeals to the Governor in Council are heard, the President will be present to plead the cause of common sense. (Applause.) The chief point of the report however lies in a recommendation concerning the constitution of the Board, which as I have already shown, virtually amounts to municipal control of Sanitary affairs. This, Sir, is a matter which strikes at the root of Crown Colony Government and as such calls for careful scrutiny. In the peculiar circumstances of our case, a British Colony run largely on alien money, with a British population, which owing to climatic and other reasons is constantly changing, it seems to me that above all other considerations our aim should be to give stability to our laws, consistency to our policy, and honesty to our administration; all of which I claim the Crown Colony system gives with a thoroughness un-

equalled by any other system. (Hear, hear.) I admit without argument that the system has faults; that our commercial progress is slow for lack of initiative and enterprise on the part of Government; I believe that under municipal control, given the right men to manage affairs, improvements would be effected in municipal matters which under existing conditions eventuate so slowly; that for instance some modern method of paving our streets would long since have ousted the old fashioned and unsuitable mud and stone; I believe that more publicity would be given and therefore more interest taken in public affairs; I admit there has hitherto been too little sympathy with commercial interests, an unaccountable jealousy on the part of officials, of private enterprise reaping private reward; that whereas in other countries new industries are given cheap land, relieved of taxation and otherwise fostered, here in Hongkong it is the practice to struggle with vexatious conditions. But these, Sir, are after all comparatively trivial grievances capable of easy removal. To change this system for that of Government by an elected assembly; to set in authority over us men who are here to day and gone to-morrow; or men whose interest in public affairs would probably be restricted to their private needs; men responsible to no one for their mistakes; or men who in the matter of public expenditure would probably imperil the Colony's credit by emulating the phantasies of modern municipal extravagance; to place the Government in such hands as these would I think be fraught with injury to the Colony, and hurtful to those who happened to be without the precincts of the municipal chamber. With a shifting population such as ours, with every one busily intent upon his own affairs, there would I think be difficulty in finding men suitable and willing to undertake such duties, so that the care of public affairs would pass into the hands of undesirable persons and we should be called upon to witness a repetition of those edifying public scandals which appear to be inseparable from democratic rule. This question of municipal government is of perennial growth; it has been championed and fought out before and discarded as unsuitable. No one questions the right of an enlightened community to manage its own affairs, but is there any evidence that the Asiatic sections of our population are possessed of the necessary enlightenment or the individual independence of character, power of self restraint and impartiality of judgment, which are the first essentials of self government? Does not the very history of this Public Health law, with its dismal tale of disease and death, answer emphatically in the negative? Are the people who, on the question of public health, have for years harassed the authorities by their apathy, their callousness, their passive resistance, are these the people to whom should be entrusted the burden of self government? Or would we have them set aside, they who possess by far the largest stake in the Colony; would we ignore the Chinese and vest control in a handful of Europeans? I venture to predict, Sir, that if any such proposal were made, we should learn very quickly from the Chinese, and not only the Chinese, that they certainly prefer the trained, disinterested, civil servant with all his faults to a clique of untrained and possibly self seeking amateurs. To judge from what appears in the local press, one would imagine the community was crushed beneath the heel of official tyranny, though one seeks in vain for those evidences of indignation, or the cries of injustice unusually associated with the cause of an oppressed people. And is it not strange that this discontent with the established order of Government, which we are told exists, should not occasionally find expression in this Council Chamber? The machinery is here, ready at hand for any member of the community to lay bare his wrongs, to unburden his woes in public, but so far as my experience goes it is seldom that the voice of genuine grievance has been heard within these walls. If, for instance, the Chinese or the property owners feel so deeply about the iniquity of any particular provision of the Public Health law, why is it they have never thought it worth their while to bring the matter before this Council? And why is it that the profuse criticisms of property owners and architects, on this very Bill, should have

dwindled down to the few comparatively unimportant matters detailed in their published reports? I will tell you why it is, Sir. It is because the Chinese know, the property owners know, and every intelligent member of this community, if he will only acknowledge the truth, knows, that in this question of public health, involving as it does the very existence of the place as a centre of trade, the Government is fighting for the welfare of all against ignorance, self interest and greed. It is for this reason that the foreign community generally are in agreement with the broad principles of the law, and it is for this reason that measures adopted by Government deserve all the support which it is in the power of honourable members to give. Stripped of technicalities and side issues, this whole problem about which controversy has raged so long, resolves itself into the very simple question, whether the Colony is content to drift on as in days of old, generating evils, the result of which will not be depreciated property or a depleted revenue, but will be an empty and a ruined city; a commerce departed never to return. The community's answer to that question was the Public Health Ordinance of 1903, by which the Government was given a mandate from the people to purify this city at any cost, and however hardly it may press upon property owners, however distasteful it may be to the Chinese, there can be no turning back now, no departure from the broad lines laid down by Messrs. Chadwick and Simpson, and no shrinking from sacrifices which the future prosperity of the port demands. This mandate must be fulfilled by the Government adhering to a fixed, unalterable policy of sanitary reform and on the unofficials on the Sanitary Board can most usefully serve the Public, not by aspiring to an impractical scheme of municipal control, but by acting in a consultative capacity to executive officials; by freely exercising their powers of exemption, by enquiring into and ventilating grievances; and above all by uniting with honourable members of this Council in criticising the details of the Government policy, not in a bickering spirit or in senseless cavil, but in a spirit of candour and fairness, which I am sure no one will more gladly welcome than those upon whom finally rests the responsibility of governing this Colony. (applause.)

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—May it please your Excellency, I think there is one very important question of principle upon which I ought to address this assembly. As the hon. member on my right has explained, the effect of the present Amending Ordinance is to concentrate considerable power in his hands as Building Authority under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. I notice, Sir, in these drafts amending the Bill before the Council, copies of which I have only received within the last twenty-four hours, it is intended to confer still further power upon the Building Authority. He is to be invested with powers in the matter of modification and exemption which have hitherto been exercised either by the Governor in Council or the Sanitary Board under the provision of sections 151, 153, 175, 176, 188, and 216 of the Ordinance. I think, Sir, there can be no doubt that great as the powers of the Building Authority have been in the past it is proposed at all events by the Government that they should be very much greater in the future. Under these circumstances I think it is very important as a question of principle that there should be inserted in this Ordinance a proviso enabling any one who has a dispute with the Building Authority as to the terms of the Ordinance to bring the matter by a short and simple process before the Supreme Court. Anybody, Sir, who is acquainted with the working of Ordinance 1 of 1903 and the Amending Ordinance is well aware that from time to time there have arisen differences of opinion as to the construction of the various sections of the Ordinance. It is also well known, Sir, that there has been considerable delay in the passing of plans. The Building Authority might perhaps construe the Ordinance in a certain way and perhaps insist that his interpretation was right while the person who wanted the work done would construe differently and insisting that his interpretation was right, a deadlock would be created. There is no

machinery provided for taking the matter before the independent judgment of the Supreme Court and the probable result is that the person who wants the work carried out gives way or possibly the Building Authority may consent to adopt the construction of the other person and grant a modification only on certain terms and conditions. Therefore I think, Sir, it would be considered that this Bill is not very acceptable in the absence of a proviso giving a right of appeal to the Supreme Court upon questions of construction and I think, Sir, that the machinery should be by way of an originating summons which is the machinery by which trustees under wills who are in doubt as to construction would apply to the Supreme Court and obtain a decision as to the proper procedure to follow. I will, Sir, with your permission read a proviso which I would suggest might be included in the Bill. I do not say that it is perfect. The draft only came to hand yesterday and I have not had much time in which to consider it, but the following indicates the point I desire to make:

"In the event of any difference of opinion arising between the Building Authority or the head of the Sanitary Department or the Board and any person as to the meaning of any provision of this Ordinance, it shall be lawful for the Building Authority or for such Head or the Board or such person to take out an Originating Summons in the name of or against the Attorney General as the case may be for the purpose of having the meaning of such provision determined by the Supreme Court. The provisions of the Hongkong Code of Civil Procedure as to Originating Summons shall extend, so far as the same are applicable and with such modifications as circumstances may require, to any Originating Summons which is issued under this section and proceedings under this section shall be deemed to be civil proceedings brought by or against the Crown as the case may be."

It will be seen by the proposed clause that it should not merely lie within the power of the person who feels aggrieved by the decision of the Building Authority or other officer but that it should also lie within the competence of the Building Authority either by himself or other officer to appeal to the Supreme Court for an interpretation of the particular provision in question. By that means we shall have in course of time authoritative decisions of the Supreme Court which will act as a very valuable record instead of as at present a number of different opinions in disputes which as everybody knows who has experience in these matters must acknowledge are constantly taking place in the present administration of the Ordinance.

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Sir, It is not my intention to speak at length on the second reading of this Bill. I take it that we are agreed upon the main principle that the Public Health and Building Ordinances of the past are in need of amendment and that this Bill is introduced to effect such amendment. I shall not therefore follow my unofficial colleague on my right in his oratorical flight nor would I follow him in the administration of praise and blame all round and in turn. One thing I will say. I should say that his stricture upon the Sanitary Commission and their report is somewhat undeserved. As the gentlemen who constituted that Commission are still, with one exception, in the Colony and will have an opportunity of defending themselves, I will leave that matter to them. There are however one or two things I wish to note. There is an impression abroad that one of the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission have not been adopted by the Government on account of that allegation that they had exceeded their powers and had gone beyond the scope of the inquiry. Now if that allegation is true it represents an attitude which is very unfair, because it seems to me that any recommendations made by the Commission should be considered on its merits and not rejected because the Commission exceeded its powers. The same argument would apply to the allegation that the members of the commission are not representative of the community. Again we can only confine ourselves to determining whether their recommendations are good or not. We should not think any the less of the recommendations because they were made by a body of men who

were not representative of the public. Where a few persons recommend certain improvements to the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance we should accept these recommendations if they are likely to effect improvements whether the individuals be representative of the public or not. Now, Sir, as regards the principles of this Bill. The most important I think is the alteration in the constitution of the Sanitary Board, the creation of a cadet president an administrative head of the Sanitary Department and the president of the Board, and having regard to the present constitution of the Board I must acknowledge that I am in favour of the Government's proposal. I see no escape from it for the present. Some years later, when we can have something like a representative municipal council, a council composed of members elected by ratepayers irrespective of nationality, with proportionate representation, then I say will be the time to have such an assembly. At present the majority of ratepayers are inadequately and wretchedly represented upon the Board. Better the present arrangement than a quasi-municipality. While upon this subject I would like to allude to something in the speech of my unofficial colleague on my right. He seemed to think that it was the shipping and commerce that made the trade of the port prosper. But he makes a mistake. What is it that attracts shipping? It is the cheap labour, the presence of a large number of industrial frugal Chinese. There is the danger of overlegislation in sanitary matters driving away this useful population and then the shipping, the commerce, the manufactures and the industries of the Colony would starve for want of labour. As regards section 175, upon which the Sanitary Commission had largely reported, I think it would be useful if the Government would make some statement of its intention. The Ordinance has been administered for the past five years and there are very few houses left which would be subject to the operation of this section. Out of perhaps a thousand houses one hundred remain to be brought within the operation of the section, and it is not worth while wrangling about. It would be well therefore if the Government would make a pronouncement on the subject, and at the same time indicate their intention with regard to the half lobby half kitchen scheme which has been in operation already with good results. If such a statement were made by the Government it would disarm much opposition to the new Ordinance, and to this particular section. Another thing of importance was the transfer from the Sanitary Board of certain functions to the Building Authority. Now this no doubt will facilitate matters which I am sure everyone from the architects and owners of property downwards desire, but at the same time there is some desire to have an appeal from the Building Authority to the Sanitary Board, so that firstly there may be a check on the Building Authority, whoever he may be, and secondly, allow the Sanitary Board to have some say in the matter in the first instance as they used to have. When we come to that part of the Ordinance I hope the Government will permit me to introduce some provision to that effect. In connection with the constitution of the Board I omitted to mention that there was a strong opposition to the Medical Officer of Health being a member of the Board. I understand that so far as Your Excellency is concerned, if we are unanimously opposed to this inclusion the matter will be reconsidered and the Government will not press this point. The new Ordinances contain a number of principles of a technical character. I must take this opportunity of thanking Your Excellency for having held two lengthy conferences with three leading architects in this Colony representing European and Chinese landowners. The kindness and courtesy shown by Your Excellency have been duly appreciated and will no doubt curtail much of the time of this council in considering his Bill in committee. The amendments drawn up by the Government to meet our views were not printed till late yesterday and there has not been time for us to study the various amendments proposed by the Government and I take it that even if we pass the second reading of the bill to-day the Government will not proceed with the committee stage until certain

time has been given to us and the architects to study the new amendments introduced by the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is only one point I want to refer to in the very able and interesting speech of the Hon. Mr. Osborne, and the greatest compliment I might pay to him is to say that the Hon. Member on my left who has sat for many years in the House of Commons remarked to me in the course of it—"They would listen to this speaker in the house of commons." Sir, the House of Commons is an assembly to which in some future day I hope to introduce myself (Laughter). I have listened with much pleasure to the Hon. Member's speech and I certainly hope I shall have the pleasure of listening to him in that august assembly if ever I join it myself. One remark he made which did not fill me with pleasure: it filled me with a great deal of sorrow. It was his remark that enterprises were strangled in Hongkong by vexatious conditions imposed by the Government. I suppose, Sir, he refers to the sale of Crown lands for the purposes of large and small enterprises. Now, Sir, I would like briefly to describe how the Government arrives at the upset price. It does not do so by rule of thumb. It takes the recorded sales public and private in the vicinity of each lot and works out the fair average price, a price generally below the average of what has been paid at public or private sales. My experience is that the upset price is generally over-bid. Honourable members may remember when a certain lot at Tsim-tsa-tsoi was offered at eighty cents per foot and sold at \$1 per foot. It is only when large lots are put up for large enterprises that unfortunately no bidding ensues. I think the Government would have had complaints from from such large firms as Messrs Butterfield and Swire and the Standard Oil Company if they considered that they were unfairly dealt with. I have had complaints from other companies in the Colony that we were selling land to their rivals too cheaply. I know, Sir, that is the sort of criticism made to the Government. The other day I was speaking to a gentleman who criticised the Government and when I asked what we should do he suggested that the Government should give land free for enterprises of an industrial nature. That struck me as a very curious proposition. I wondered what the existing companies would say if we were to give land away. If honourable members can give the Government any assistance we would be obliged to them. The Government wants to promote industrial enterprises and if we are unwittingly hitting anyone hard we should know it in order that we may correct our methods in the future.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—Before dealing with the various points raised in the exceedingly interesting debate to which we have just listened I would like to say one or two things in reference to the remarks which I made when introducing this Bill. It has been remarked that when I said that the constitution of the Commission was not entirely representative that I had been somewhat lacking in courtesy. It was so foreign to my thoughts to be in any way discourteous to the gentlemen who for so long contributed so much of their private time to the public interest on that Commission that I would wish most emphatically to disclaim any intention on my part whatever to have been guilty in the remotest degree of any discourtesy to them. How far the five unofficial members of the Sanitary Board could be representative of the community or how far any five gentlemen in this community may be entirely representative where there are such a variety of interests involved is a matter of opinion. But it is a matter of history that my predecessor appointed those gentlemen originally as a Committee of the Sanitary Board which was afterwards extended to a Commission and the reasons why he did so are well-known. It suffices for me to say that in alluding to that subject I intended no discourtesy and no depreciation of the labours and work these gentlemen have done. In the second place I have seen it noted that I was in error in saying that the members of the Commission had not access to the confidential documents which passed between the Secretary of State and the Governor. Throughout the report of

the Committee in the papers which I studied on this subject there was no indication whatever that they had access to confidential despatches. I find I was in error in the statement I made and I deeply regret having made it. Exception was also taken to my remarks that the Commission had somewhat exceeded their powers. The committee was constituted to advise on the matter of the administration of the existing ordinance and my predecessor said "I do not contemplate modification of the Ordinance of 193." I think I was well within the truth in the remark I made. Further, it has been stated that Sir Matthew Nathan repeatedly saw the Chairman of the Commission and had discussions with him from time to time as to the progress of their investigations. I regret very much that no record has been left of what transpired on those occasions, but it is perfectly clear from the fact of his having had these discussions and from the fact that he accepted the report that he intended to deal with it as though it had been entirely within the terms of reference. And that is the attitude I have myself adopted, and the proof of it is that we are here to-day discussing the second reading of the Amending Bill, whether it was within the original terms of reference or not. I may add that whether or not they were within the scope of the terms of reference no recommendation, be it great or small, that they made in that report has been set aside on that ground. Every single recommendation or suggestion has been considered on its merits irrespective of whether or not it was within the precise terms of the reference. It is not usual gentlemen that a speech which is made in this Council should be debated by any public body outside the Council before it has been replied to in this Chamber. When I saw that discussion was likely to take place at the Sanitary Board a short time ago I took the opportunity of suggesting to the President that no limitation should be placed upon the discussion so that members of the Commission who are members of the Sanitary Board might be able to reply to anything I had said in the fullest manner they desired. I have allowed myself in the few words I have just said to travel outside the strict discussion of the Bill in order to amplify the remarks I made at the first reading. It is eight weeks to-day since we introduced this Bill to the Council and hon. members and the community outside have had now considerable time to study its provisions, and I am glad to say that the fullest advantage has been taken of that opportunity. The European land and property owners appointed two leading firms of architects to study and report upon it and the Chinese property owners have adopted the same course and appointed a third firm to report on the Bill. The Sanitary Board has had several meetings to discuss the Amending Ordinance and we are in possession of their views. I welcome on behalf of the Government most cordially this body of opinion and the criticisms which have been most valuable and I think they will tend to improve the Bill which I hope will be a useful measure and will set at rest this perennial controversy on the subject of sanitation in this Colony. I turn now to one or two of the principal points raised in the speeches to which we have listened. In the first place I think, after the eloquent speech which we had from the hon member on my right (Mr. Osborne) that I may dismiss the question as regards the municipality or quasi-municipality which was raised by the Sanitary Commission. I noted in the hon member's speech with the greatest possible pleasure the encouraging tribute which he paid to the singleness of purpose—I do not say to the ability or non-ability—but to the singleness of purpose of Government officials in endeavouring to do the best, as far as in them lies, for the public welfare, and I hope the words of the hon member reflect generally the opinion of unofficial members of the Council and of the leading people of the colony. With regard to the matter of the administrative head of the Sanitary Department there is little to say. Both the hon. members on my right who have spoken have signified their approval of the proposals of the Government in this matter. I entertain great hopes that the present intervention of an administrative head who has

powers and status and can devote his whole time to his work will result in the far better administration of the sanitary laws and above all in securing the co-operation and understanding of the Chinese in what we are trying to achieve (applause.) The hon. senior unofficial member of the council alluded to the question of the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health as a member of the Sanitary Board. When introducing this Bill I said that this matter had been debated before and I observed there had been considerable opposition to the proposal and if it appeared at present that the unanimous opinion of the unofficial members was against that proposal I shall not be prepared to insist upon it. At the same time I must say that it appears to me that the argument that the Medical Officer of Health would be the master of the Board and that any proposal from him emanating as medical officer which they thought fit to amend would not be set aside when as a member of the Board he was called upon to vote after hearing arguments based on finance—that argument, it seems to me, is untenable. Personally, I am of the opinion that as Sanitary Board is only another name for Health Board it is essential that there should be a Government medical officer upon the Board, whether he is the Principal Medical Officer of Health or the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and I feel sure that the Secretary of State will insist upon that. With regard to the question of open spaces, it has been urged that the law is too drastic and I have been anxious to make myself personally acquainted with the operation of the law by inspecting various types of houses to which it has been applied. The net result appeared to be that it was absolutely inconceivable to make any law which would meet the great variety of types of houses and built on gradients of serious steepness. The existing law has been modified by Ordinance 8 of 1907 which gives power of exemption and modification to the Governor in Council. I think gentlemen, that if no other result had followed from the report of the Commission the Commissioners might consider their labours had been effective in having procured the enactment of that Ordinance. I think the value and importance of that ordinance has been underrated or at least has not been properly appreciated. It is now possible for exemptions, for modifications to be applied for in any case in which the law appears to operate harshly in any variety or type of house. The hon. senior unofficial member laid stress upon the fact that overlegislation would tend to drive away the population and enhance the cost of labour. This policy of open spaces has now been in operation since 1899 and I may add that the policy of scavenging lanes has been in operation since 1837. I am of the opinion that it is wise and politic not to change our legislation from time to time but to allow, as by the Ordinance of last year, greater elasticity, greater liberality in interpretation by granting powers of exemption and modification. With regard to the scavenging of lanes it may perhaps be said that the money which the Government has spent in providing these might perhaps have been better spent in providing sums for large resumptions. That however is a matter of opinion and has now become an academic question. The policy has been in operation for 20 years, and it is one on which Messrs. Chadwick and Simpson laid special stress. These gentlemen, as Mr. Osborne has told us, were experts sent out from home to this Colony at the special wish of the community, and it was on their suggestions that the Public Health Ordinance was framed. I had intended to say a few words with reference to the words "by the owner" in section 175 but in view of what has fallen from the senior unofficial member there is hardly any necessity now to touch upon that subject. There is one other point upon which I think it is advisable to say a few words. That is the question of disinfection. I think gentlemen we are in process of reaching a solution in this matter which is the best of all possible solutions and in my opinion the only solution, that is by improving the sanitation of the city and by stopping the abandonment of the dead in the streets and by the co-operation of the Chinese themselves. Owing to the tactful

and indefatigable work of the Registrar General, Mr. Brewin, supported by both the hon members who represent the Chinese on this Council, and by the two gentlemen, Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. Fung Wa Chun, who represent the Chinese community on the Sanitary Board, great progress has been made in the co-operation of the Chinese in this matter. The establishment of dispensaries has advanced very rapidly. Their objects are to enable the Chinese to understand what the Sanitary law is and to teach them how to act in cases of infectious disease and to enable them to remove their sick and dead without the interference, if possible, of the sanitary officers, and to appoint street committees. Quite recently, at the beginning of February last, we had advanced a further step in the appointment of Street Committees. I had the pleasure of meeting them a few weeks ago, and I was struck with the enthusiasm and obvious attention to their duties of the large number of gentlemen, some two hundred, who attended that day. In future the dispensaries will be under the control of the Tung Wa Hospital Committee which has been attending to the supervision of the work. I trust this will result in a considerable decrease in the abandonment of dead bodies. With regard to the question of disinfection there was a large number of minor amendments made by the Commissioners in their report. The majority of these really involve amendments to byelaws. Only some months ago the Council asked the Sanitary Board to submit any byelaws which they considered needed revision in view of the report of the Commission. With regard to the amendment proposed by my hon learned friend on my right I think the point he has raised is an important one and I can promise that it shall receive the most careful consideration of the Government. He said that a deadlock was reached when there occurred a divergence of opinion between the person desiring to carry out the work or his architect and the Building Authority as to the interpretation of the law but that, I think, is hardly a correct description of the existing condition of affairs since there is of course an appeal to the Governor-in-Council, who is advised by the Attorney General as to his decision in any ruling. I don't say that that would be entirely satisfactory from a legal point of view as a ruling by the Supreme Court. It has the great merit that it involves no cost to either party and it is speedy and final. Should there be a considerable number of such applications made involving considerable expense to the Government, the circumstances would be different, but that is a point I will not go into at present. I should like to take the advice of my legal adviser upon it. All I can promise at present is that it shall have our careful consideration. The hon. member on my right asked that we should adjourn the discussion of the Bill in committee to give members sufficient time in which to study it, and I propose that we shall not take it for another three weeks.

HON. MR. POLLOCK—I have to ask your Excellency to grant a longer adjournment than three weeks. I would ask an adjournment for a further two weeks. The Hon. Mr. Osborne is leaving the Colony on Thursday next and a member will have to be appointed to the Council in his place, and that member will come new to this Bill. He will have to study thoroughly the provisions of the original Ordinance and of the various Amending Ordinances and understand the purport of the various amendments proposed. I would ask for a further adjournment on a personal ground. Circumstances have arisen which will render it necessary for me to leave the Colony on Thursday next by the "Empress of Japan," and I do not anticipate that I can be back within three weeks from this date. It would amount to this that in place of the hon. member there would be a new member who would not have mastered the intricacies of this important Bill and I am afraid I should not be present in my place in the Council as I would like to be when this Bill is being considered. It is very important when this Bill which we hope to put an end to Sanitary legislation for a time is being considered that every unofficial member should be in his place.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I have already considered the point raised by the hon. member who has

just sat down. I need hardly say that it is my desire to meet as fully as possible the views of unofficial members and to give as long an adjournment as may be necessary, but I hardly think—at any rate I have had no indication—that it is the general wish either of the unofficial members or of the community that this Bill should be hung up for a further five weeks. It had been my intention to take the Committee stage in a fortnight but on consideration of the fact that we were losing the honourable member on my right (Mr. Osborne)—a loss which I most deeply regret—and also that the honourable member at the end of the table on my left (Mr. Keswick) will also leave the Colony for a short time, I thought that it would be better to postpone the committee stage for a further week. That would give fully a fortnight in one case and three weeks in the other for the temporary members appointed to their places in the council to consider the provisions of the Bill. I could hardly adjourn the Committee stage for five weeks purely on the ground that one individual is going away on entirely voluntary business from the Colony, even though the cause is one we all deplore. I think that it would be better to adhere to my proposal to take the committee stage three weeks hence.

The Bill was then read a second time.

FOREIGN CORPORATIONS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to enable Foreign Corporations to acquire and hold land in the Colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned till this day three weeks.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held afterwards—the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following votes were passed:—

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT VOTE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of thirty-nine dollars (\$39) in aid of the vote, Medical Department, B.—Hospitals and Asylums, Civil Hospital, Other Charges, Uniform for Indian Constable.

POLICE AND PRISON DEPARTMENTS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, A.—Police, Other Charges, Secret Service.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand one hundred and twenty dollars (1,120) in aid of the vote, Colonial Secretary's Department and Legislature, Personal Emoluments, Temporary 1st Grade Clerk.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on April 28th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president), presided, and there were also present Lieut. Col. Martin, Captain Lyons, Hon. Mr. Irving, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Mr. Fong Wai-chun, and Dr. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. Messer (Secretary).

AN ABORTIVE PROPOSAL.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER, pursuant to notice, moved:—"That the Board recommends the Government to give legislative effect, in the proposed new Ordinance amending the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, to the instructions of His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, that all Government Buildings be placed under the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board." In doing so he said he believed it would meet with no opposition from members of the Board. He pointed out that the subject first came under their notice over a year ago when it was found that the new Post Office was in a most insanitary condition, and when it was pointed out to Sir Matthew Nathan he issued orders that departmental instructions be given that sanitary inspectors should make the same inspection of Government buildings as private buildings.

The PRESIDENT—Not quite the same.

Mr. HOOPER—Very well. That strengthens my argument. Because a building or land was owned by the Government was, he added, no reason why it should be less sanitary than buildings or land privately owned. He mentioned the insanitary condition of the gardeners' cottages in Macdonnell Road and of the broken down pipe at the Supreme Court. Had these belonged to private owners they would have been served with a notice to abate within 24 hours or be run up by the heels to the Police Court. He failed to see why the Government which was clamouring to make those places sanitary should be in a better position than the others. It might be that the Government was not flush with money but that excuse could not be pleaded by private individuals and he did not think the Government should do so. His motion was that Sir Matthew Nathan's departmental instructions should have legislative effect given to them, and where a government building was found in an insanitary condition the owner should be served with a summons to abate the nuisance or else appear before the Magistrate. The question arose as to who was the owner, and he proposed that the Colonial Secretary should stand for the owner in the same way as he being the Secretary of the Building Company stood for it.

The PRESIDENT—Does any one second this?

Mr. HOOPER—I have asked no one to second it, I thought you would.

The PRESIDENT—I don't see my way to second this because I don't think it practicable. The matter was referred to the Crown Solicitors and their opinion was that the Sanitary Board had control over all Government buildings. Mr. Hooper suggests that the Colonial Secretary should be served with a notice whenever a nuisance is found to exist on Government property.

Mr. HOOPER—Quite so.

The PRESIDENT—Do you think the Colonial Secretary could possibly undertake that work with all his other work?

Mr. HOOPER—As much as I can for my company with my other work.

The PRESIDENT—Is it practical? What I meant when I said that Government property was not inspected in the same way as private property was that it was dealt with more thoroughly than other buildings.

Mr. HOOPER—No.

The PRESIDENT—I have inquired and I find that Government buildings are inspected once a month and in addition coolie quarters are inspected at least once a week.

Mr. HUMPHREYS said he did not hear Mr. Hooper's motion which he understood was to bring all Government property under the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board. If it was only a question as to who was to be served with a notice, it was immaterial whether the Colonial Secretary or the Building Authority was served.

The PRESIDENT—Do I take it you second this motion?

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I don't mind seconding it. I am not very clear about it.

Mr. HOOPER in his reply said he understood that his proposal would be acceptable to the Government.

On a vote being taken, three voted for the motion and four against. The motion was declared lost.

The PRESIDENT remarked that if any member noticed anything like what Mr. Hooper had mentioned as existing at the Supreme Court and elsewhere he might report it to the department.

RINDERPEST.

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON had reported an outbreak of rinderpest at the Dairy Farm at Pokfulam. On the 9th inst he received information from the manager that he suspected disease among the cattle at No. 7 shed. He visited the premises where there were 12 cows, 1 bull, and 32 calves; five of the calves had high temperature and the cases being doubtful, he took the usual precautions. Later visits showed the nature of the illness, and he found that disease had made its appearance in other parts. The animals were isolated and all the sheds affected had been washed and sprayed with a solution of Jaye's fluid. He informed the

Board that the steps taken had made the outbreak a thing of the past.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT the premises were declared free.

THE AMENDING ORDINANCE.

On a reference being made to the report of the architects on the proposed Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance,

Mr. HOOPER mentioned that a meeting had been held at which the Government had agreed to accept certain recommendations to the Bill and he would like to know what was likely to be done as the second reading of the Bill was down for the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday.

The PRESIDENT thought the alterations suggested and accepted would be placed before the Board.

Mr. HOOPER added that the Government wanted their views before the Bill was passed. They had only had time to deal with a portion of it.

The PRESIDENT said he had no information to give. He thought the matter would be referred to the Board before the Bill became law.

Mr. HOOPER said he wanted to know what their position was because they did not want to sit discussing these amendments and he thought the amendments suggested by the architects and accepted by the Government should be placed before them. He moved that the Board ask the Colonial Secretary to inform them of the proposed alterations to the Bill.

Colonel MARTIN seconded, and the proposal was agreed to.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ending April 4th showed that the death rate for the British and foreign community was 31.6 per 1,000 as against 20.5 in the corresponding week of last year and for the whole colony 21.6 as against 20.8 in the corresponding week of last year.

CATTLE STUFFING.

Representations having been made some time ago by Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Co., Shewan Tomes and Co, and Butterfield and Swire as to the injury done to the export trade in cattle by the practice of stuffing the cattle, a byelaw was framed to prevent the drenching of cattle. It appeared from the minute of the Veterinary Surgeon that this was not sufficient as salt was administered to cattle in order to make them drink water and swell themselves so that they became heavier and realised more when sold. It was proposed to frame another byelaw to prevent salt being administered to them in the depot except with the permission of the Veterinary Surgeon and this was approved.

ULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room on the 7th April 1908.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), O. F. V. Bowra, Huang Tsan-shew, N. Kruse, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1 The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

2 An application from the Committee of the Temple is read, for permission to hold a religious procession from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 12th instant, which is granted, provided no fire arms are carried. Sanction is also given for a festival to be held at the Temple up to 12 midnight, the 11th inst.

3 The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Debt 3, Breach of Municipal Regulations 1, Assault 1, Breach of Prison Regulations 1, Illegally removing property 3, Being abroad after 12 midnight without a light 1.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE,
Chairman,

By order,

C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,
Secretary.

THE LATE MR. RENNIE.

INQUEST RE SUICIDE.

The inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of Mr. A. H. Rennie took place at the Magistracy on April 28th before Mr. J. H. Kemp, sitting as coroner, and a jury composed of Messrs J. C. Gow, J. N. Seth, and T. Hunter, Mr. G. C. Master watched the proceedings on behalf of Mrs. Rennie.

Dr. Heanley, medical officer in charge of the mortuary, stated that on the 15th inst. he examined the body of a European aged about fifty. It was identified by Mr. Chard as being the body of Mr. Rennie. He considered the cause of death was drowning, but the signs of drowning were so indefinite that it should not be left to the man conducting the post-mortem to give the cause of death. The post-mortem disclosed a small bruise under the chin which might have been done by anything such as a piece of rope or wood. There was a slight bruise on the nose. There were no injuries external or internal. The conditions he found in the body suggested drowning.

His Worship—There were no signs of poisoning?

Witness—I did not send the stomach to the Government analyst. I saw nothing to suggest poisoning.

In answer to his Worship, witness said. The bruise on the nose might have been caused by the despatch box which Mr. Rennie had fastened round his neck.

The coxswain of the steam launch "Canada" said he remembered the 14th inst. on which day he was coxswain on board the launch. He took Mr. Rennie on board at 3 o'clock. He was going full speed and his master told him to go half speed. Afterwards he lifted his handkerchief and waved it for about two minutes towards the Peak. Then he asked witness if he had any rope and witness handed him a piece. That was about four minutes after starting. Mr. Rennie went into the cabin and called his boy. He remained for some time in the cabin, then came out and walked to and fro on the deck singing. On reaching Quarry Bay he told the boy to make tea. At that time there was a steamer carrying soldiers coming from Lyeemoon and Mr. Rennie told him to lower the flag of the launch as a mark of respect. Afterwards he entered the cabin, from which he emerged when they came to Lyeemoon. Mr. Rennie had a box fastened round his neck with the rope which witness had given him. Then he jumped into the sea. The assistant coxswain went to his assistance, while witness stopped the launch and called out to the crew to throw him a life buoy. The assistant coxswain swam to Mr. Rennie and offered him the life buoy which his master pushed back. The assistant caught hold of Mr. Rennie by the clothes but the latter kicked him away. By that time the launch had come up. It took about five minutes. Mr. Rennie was floating all the time, but nothing was supporting him. Witness did not see him move after he had been in the water two minutes.

How was it he did not sink?—I do not know. Perhaps it was on account of his clothes.

What became of the box?—It was also floating.

When you picked up your master did you pick up the box at the same time?—Yes.

Was it still fastened to him?—No; it fell off after he went into the water.

What did you do after picking up the body?—I steamed to Hongkong full speed. I moved his arm and rubbed his stomach. He vomited some water.

Did he move after you took him on board?—No.

On your way back you blew the steam whistle to attract attention?—Yes.

And eventually you met the police launch?—Yes.

Was your master conscious after you took him on board?—No, he did not move.

To Yaw, second coxswain of the "Canada" corroborated the statement of the previous witness. Mr. Rennie, prior to telling his boy to prepare tea, walked on the deck singing. Then they met a steamer carrying troops and the launch flag was "dipped." A European on

the steamer waved his handkerchief and Mr. Rennie waved in return. Shortly afterwards he entered his cabin and a few minutes later he came out and jumped into the sea.

Did his boy go into the cabin with him?—No.

What next?—I jumped into the sea after him.

Did you take a lifebuoy with you?—No, one was thrown to me afterwards.

And you seized it?—Yes, and took it to my master, but he would not take hold of it. I then seized his jacket.

Did he say anything?—When I first took the life buoy I said "Master, take this." He said—"Don't want it."

Did he speak in English?—Yes.

What did he say?—He said he did not want it.

What happened?—Then after I caught him by the jacket he kicked me away. He continued to float. Then the launch which had gone astern came up and I seized him by the jacket and took him on board where I tried to resuscitate him. Then on our return journey we blew four blasts and lowered the flag. The police launch came up.

Did he move after being taken on board?—No.

Was he conscious?—Did he say anything?—He was not conscious.

Did you see this steel box?—Yes.

Where?—On the launch. Mr. Rennie carried it.

What became of it afterwards?—It was in the sea. I picked it up.

When Mr. Rennie floated in the sea, was anything supporting him?—No, Sir.

Sing Yim, Mr. Rennie's "boy," said he went out in the launch with him on the 14th inst., and saw him waving his handkerchief and afterwards walk about. Then he called witness into the cabin and asked for a bottle of soda water. "He then wept before me and said he was very sorry."

What did he say?—"I very sorry for the office business."

Yes?—He then wept and said he could not bear to part with Mr. Chard and his wife.

What else? He said he could not bear to part with me because I had been so long with him. He said if he was to die or go away Mr. Chard would look after me. I asked him when he was going to die or go away and he said "I don't know." When I entered the cabin I saw a box with a rope round it. I asked him what it was and he said it contained old letters. He said he would take them to the flour mill and sink them there. When near Taikoo Sugar Refinery we passed a steamer and he ordered the flag to be lowered and waved his handkerchief. Afterwards he told me to make tea for him. I brought the tea inside the cabin and waited outside. Mr. Rennie poured some cream and tea into the cup. I walked to the stern. Shortly afterwards the coxswain said my master had jumped into the sea. I looked and saw the second coxswain in the sea catch a life buoy thrown him. The second coxswain handed the life buoy to my master but he pushed it away. As soon as he jumped overboard the launch went astern.

Did he drink the tea?—No, he did not drink the tea or soda water.

P. C. Baker spoke to being in the police launch on the afternoon of the day in question and, hearing a launch blowing a whistle, he proceeded to it. On going on board the boy informed him that Mr. Rennie had jumped overboard and had been drowned. He was shown the body and he examined it. To all appearances he was dead. He ordered the coxswain to proceed to the Police Pier, and after reporting at the Station, he returned to the launch. Witness did not properly understand the method of resuscitation. Dr. Ainsley came down and tried to resuscitate him but without success. The coxswain pointed out the box which he said Mr. Rennie had placed round his neck. He took possession of it with other property and afterwards took the body to the mortuary.

Inspector Langley said he examined the box the same night and found a number of old letters and papers but nothing that would bear on the subject of the inquiry.

Mr. H. F. Chard, who had been employed in the Hongkong Milling Company, said Mr. Rennie was worried about the financial affairs of the

Company. He had a long and heavy strain in starting the company.

Would you say he was naturally impulsive or would you say he was slow and deliberate?—I think he was extremely impulsive.

Would you say he was a man of strong character?—Yes, a man of strong will indeed.

Mrs. Rennie was next called. She said she lived at "The Firs."

Did you notice any depression in Mr. Rennie?—Yes.

When did it first appear?—About four or five days after the general meeting of the company.

Will you give details?—He began by having sleepless nights. He was an excellent sleeper. He could sleep at any time. He would come home very tired, sleep for a few minutes, then have tiffin. He would read at night, far into the night. On several occasions I woke up and found him wandering about. He would pass my bedroom quietly. I have risen and asked him what was the matter and he said "I am very worried." He was always complaining about his head being so tired and I asked him to tell me what his worries were, but he said that I could not understand. I told him that I could understand. I tried to console him in every way I could. He said "I feel I can't go on much longer." When I spoke to him and asked him why he did not get some one to help him he said there were others who could help him but would not. Then he pulled himself together. He was always so self-reliant. I tried to be cheerful and not let him see that I was troubled. One morning about two weeks before his death he was dressing in his room. There is a communicating door between our rooms and I looked into his room. I saw him rush his hands through his hair and jump about and say "Oh God kill me." I ran to him and asked him what was the matter but all he said was nothing was the matter. He threw himself down in an exhausted condition on the bed but after three or four minutes he recovered and said "Yes I will go on with this I will pull it through." I asked him why he did not tell his partners, Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Mody, and he replied "So I have, but they can't do anything." This went on day after day and he asked me not to let him go out alone. Sometimes he would ask me for a book. When I was not able to go out he asked to take out Geff, that is our little dog. On another occasion I found him wandering about the house in a terrible state. The night before his death we were at Government House. We dined at the King Edward Hotel. He came home late and rushed upstairs. I had only been in bed about ten minutes when I called to him as I was sick. He came to me and dropped at the foot of the bed and I asked him what was the matter. I recovered and he went back to his room telling me that he would be awake and not to be afraid to call him if I wanted him. About fifteen minutes afterwards he called out "Do you want me?" I told him that I did not need him and I fell asleep. In the morning he said to me "I can't go on much longer" and when I asked him to tell me he said I would not understand. As the house was being painted he came into my room to get some collars from the wardrobe. He put his head on his arm and wept bitterly. (At this stage Mrs. Rennie was in tears and Mrs. Master came to her assistance. However she recovered a little and continued her story.) I of course rushed to him and asked him to tell me his trouble. I said "Cannot you speak to someone?" He said no one could do anything for him. He finished dressing and rung up Sir Paul Chater and Sir Paul answered. He said I am coming to breakfast with you, you know I am in trouble. Sir Paul answered I have people staying with me. Mr. Rennie said you are always busy in your office. I will see you in your office directly I come down. I had breakfast in my room as the house was being painted. Again I found him sitting with his head on his arm weeping bitterly. He was so self-reliant and I could not understand this. He pulled himself together. We finished breakfast and he went out.

You remember him saying "God keep me in my right mind"?—Yes. He would tell nobody about his troubles but his partners. They were deeply interested and did not wish to do more.

You received a letter?—Yes.

About what time?—Between half past two and three o'clock.

In Mr. Rennie's handwriting?—Yes.

You afterwards destroyed that letter?—Yes. It was purely of a private nature.

You dictated it afterwards from memory to Mr. Master?—Yes.

Will you see if this is correctly dictated?—It is.

Mrs. Rennie continued—On the morning of his death Mr. Rennie came home to tiffin. He had tiffin in my room and seemed quite cheerful. Now I see it. He was trying to make me believe he was cheerful. I asked him "Have you seen Sir Paul Chater?" He said "Yes, he made proposals to me, proposals which I told you before would come. I don't like to think about them." I said "Never mind you will pull through" and he said "yes." After tiffin he said "I am coming home early to-night." I said I was glad because he was tired. He went downstairs and called out. I went on to the verandah. I said goodbye to him over the verandah. It was the last time.

Have you anything else to add?—What I do want to say is this. I want to put my husband right in the eyes of the world. He was an absolutely honest man always. Any liabilities he incurred were not more than he knew his own personal estate could always make right. On the day of his death I was served with a writ for \$30,000. As to the right or wrong of that this is not the time or the place to say, but that transaction and other things worried him. Had he received from the Hongkong Milling Company his dues he would have been in a position to pay his indebtedness. He never thought of himself. For three years he worked at that place and yet at the end of that time he was asked by the company to relinquish one half of what he had earned. For his three years' work he received a paltry \$30,000 from the Hongkong Milling Company. They are in a position. They got it. Well they will probably try to do something to revive it. While he was there they did nothing to help him. His one aim was to make Hongkong self supporting. He spent his life and his money freely. He was willing to work. He loved work and he loved life. His life was thrown away.

Mrs. Rennie left the box shaken with emotion and was assisted out of court by Mr. and Mrs. Master.

His Worship then addressed the jury. He did not propose, he said, to read the letter. The evidence showed that deceased had died by his own act and it remained for them to decide whether they would return a verdict of suicide simply or suicide whilst of unsound mind. The evidence showed that his mind had been deranged and that he had been very much worried by the financial affairs of the company.

The jury unanimously returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JUNK BAY MILLS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

April 30th.

SIR,—With reference to your report of the inquest attending the death of the late Mr. Rennie, whilst we are very loath to address you on this unhappy subject we feel that, in justice to our clients Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Mody, we ought to ask you to publish the following statement of the actual facts in connection with certain of the matters referred to in such report.

It is reported that a few days after the general meeting of the Hongkong Milling Company Ltd. a change became apparent in Mr. Rennie, who complained of business worries and alleged that those who could help him would not do so. With regard to this, reference should be made to the statements of Mr. Rennie on the 7th ultimo on the occasion of his presiding at the annual general meeting of the Milling Company; from this it will be seen that he stated that the outlook for the current year is more promising. "The demand for our product continues so strong that we have difficulty in keeping pace with it. I am glad to say that everything is going

on smoothly at the mills", and "A profit of \$161,262.76 in the first eleven months of our working proves that we have established the business on a sound basis and I confidently believe that at our next meeting we will be in a position to propose a handsome distribution of profits." Such statements would certainly not convey to the ordinary mind that there was any cause for worry over, or anything substantially wrong with the affairs of the Company and our clients have in fact no reason whatever to suppose, or any intimation whatever from Mr. Rennie, that matters were running otherwise than most favourably in connection with the concern.

It is further reported that evidence was given to the effect that Mr. Rennie was asked why he did not tell his partners (our clients) of them and replied that he had done so but that it was no good. We presume that by "partners" are intended our clients, though actually they were not Mr. Rennie's partners, but directors of, and large shareholders in, the Milling Company. With regard to this part of the report, what we have written above is in point, but, we should add, it was not until the 11th instant (three days before Mr. Rennie's death) that our clients had the slightest suspicion that all was not well in connection with the affairs of the Mill. On that date, at a Board Meeting of the Company, Mr. Rennie in accordance with the requirements of the Articles of Association, intimated that he desired to have a meeting of the shareholders of the company convened for the purpose of obtaining authority from them to charge the Company's property in favour of their Bankers and he then put before our clients, as directors, a statement, which is now in our hands, showing a loss as estimated by him, of \$41,000 odd upon the milling and sale of the wheat then in the Company's godowns, which statement Mr. Rennie then informed our clients he proposed placing before the Company's Bankers. This was absolutely the first intimation our clients received from Mr. Rennie that the affairs of the Company were not proceeding favourably, but, as the statement showed a loss of only one-fourth of the profits that Mr. Rennie had stated at the annual general meeting had been already made by the company, our clients naturally did not view matters in too serious or too unfavourable a light and, having the most complete confidence in Mr. Rennie, they accepted such statement as accurate in every respect, though it has since been ascertained that the Company's Bankers proved it to be otherwise. At the same time Mr. Rennie mentioned to our clients that there was a purchase of wheat which he had made for June shipment, which he had asked the Company's Bankers to finance, but which they were unwilling to do unless our clients personally guaranteed the transaction, which amounted to some \$500,000. The latter did not then refuse to do this, but took the matter into consideration.

On the morning of the 14th instant, Mr. Rennie rang up Sir Paul Chater on the telephone, stating that he was in trouble and desired to see Sir Paul, who, in reply, arranged to see Mr. Rennie at his office that morning and accordingly did so. Mr. Rennie then informed Sir Paul Chater that there was trouble with regard to the June shipment above mentioned, that he had been notified that the steamer in connection therewith had been chartered and that accordingly the necessary credit must be sent and reiterated that if our clients would guarantee same it could be arranged through the Company's Bankers. Sir Paul Chater then suggested to Mr. Rennie that it would be best, in order to cut the then apparent loss on the shipment as much as possible, for Mr. Rennie to telegraph to cancel the contract and resell the shipment which Mr. Rennie then concurred in doing and, in Sir Paul's presence wrote out a telegram for that purpose and handed it to Mr. Chard to despatch.

It is also reported that on the day of Mr. Rennie's death Mrs. Rennie was served with a writ for \$30,000. With regard to this, in February last, prior to the annual general meeting, and when the accounts had been audited and a skeleton statement in connection therewith got out, Mr. Rennie saw our clients therewith and as to the disposition of the then estimated balance of some \$130,000 thereby appearing. Sir Paul Chater

expressed the view that this balance should be appropriated by declaring a dividend to the shareholders, in view of the fact that three years had elapsed since the incorporation of the Company. Mr. Rennie was reluctant to accept this suggestion and stated that the company needed the money in its business and that their Bankers preferred such a course, whereupon Sir Paul Chater said that, as Mr. Rennie proposed to give no dividend to the shareholders, he ought, in accordance with the not unusual practice, to forego at least a portion of his commission on the Company's workings for the then past year (prior to which there had been no workings and consequently no commission earned) amounting to \$60,000, and Mr. Rennie agreed to half such commission, thus receiving the sum of \$30,000, in this connection, Mr. Rennie informed our clients that he desired to obtain an advance to himself of a sum of \$30,000 which Mr. Mody promptly volunteered and which, a few days later, he did in fact lend, receiving in return a promissory note therefor, which promissory note fell due on the 21st ultimo, but having the fullest confidence in Mr. Rennie and his position, Mr. Mody did not then present the note for payment, but left it to Mr. Rennie to discharge as and when he saw fit. After Mr. Rennie's death our clients learnt for the first time that he had effected considerable dealings with his holdings in the Millings Co., engaging considerable claims on his estate and Mr. Mody saw us in connection with the above mentioned loan, informing us of the dealings just referred to and placing his interests in our hands. On our advice proceedings were at once instituted against the deceased's estate, with the view of endeavouring to assure to Mr. Mody priority for his claim in respect of the loan referred to over the claims of other creditors of the deceased in respect of his said dealings. These proceedings were not instituted on the same day as, but on the day following, Mr. Rennie's death and Mrs. Rennie was not served with the writ of summons, nor was it ever in contemplation to so serve her and in fact service was effected by us on her then solicitors two days after Mr. Rennie's death.

Finally, there is reported a suggestion to the effect that our clients have succeeded in obtaining possession of the Mill. With regard to this, the true facts are that after Mr. Rennie's death the affairs of the Company were found to be so involved and disastrous that our clients, as the only remaining directors in the Colony, were advised and decided that, in the best interests of the shareholders, the only proper course was to apply to the Court for a winding-up order and the appointment of a liquidator, which was accordingly done. This liquidator is now in possession of the property of the Company on its behalf, but it is more than probable that the realisation of such property will be insufficient to pay the Company's creditors and consequently leave nothing for the shareholders, of whom our clients hold two-thirds of the whole capital and accordingly are by far the greatest losers, from the confidence placed in Mr. Rennie, and the state in which his death left the affairs of the Company.

Thanking you in anticipation of the insertion of this,—We are yours obediently,

DEACON LOOKER AND DEACON.

PLAGUE AND RATS.

On April 28th, ten more plague cases were notified, increasing the total to 112 at date.

It is singular that with the rapid spread of this disease this year, the number of plague infected rats found should be less than before. It throws doubts on the scientific conclusions with regard to rats and plague.

It may not be generally known that the plague inspectors at Hongkong, when they have a house under inspection, instal a tame rat there for five days, or until it dies, if the latter event happens within that period. The animal, which is regularly fed, but not provided with water is then returned to the Bacteriological Laboratory.

This week a second case of plague broke out in a house in which the rat had shown no traces of disease.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 27th April.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR F. PIGGOTT).

THE FLORIDA WATER CASE.

The case was continued in which the proprietors of the Kwong Sang ship were charged with a breach of the Trade Marks Ordinance by applying a false trade description to bottles of scent.

His Lordship said he had asked the Attorney-General to be present as he was not sure whether the prosecution was a Crown prosecution or a private one.

The Attorney-General replied that no prosecution could be conducted without the consent of the Crown and the Crown could allow any one to conduct the prosecution.

His Lordship said the matter after all was purely academic.

Tung Tuk Tim, recalled, told his Lordship that the management of the trade mark business was left to him, and the first and third defendants took no active part in it, with the exception of giving approval.

Sir Henry Berkeley devoted several hours to addressing the jury and was followed by Mr. Slade who spoke at less length.

The Chief Justice then summed up and explained the legal aspects of the case. He told the jury to consider the question that having had a vague impression of Lanman and Kemp's label, would the ordinary purchaser, on seeing the defendants' label be likely to buy the defendants' scent instead of that of Lanman and Kemp? He had certain questions to put to them.

Sir Henry—I think it is a question for a verdict—guilty or not guilty.

The Chief Justice—It is absolutely essential—

Sir Henry—We don't want a verdict by the Court but by the jury. I think it might very well be left to the jury. If they think a man might be deceived by the two girls then the defendants are guilty.

His Lordship—I don't think that would be quite fair to your clients.

Sir Henry—You cannot make a jury return a special verdict.

His Lordship—I think the questions ought to be put to the jury.

Sir Henry—You cannot make them answer them.

His Lordship—That is so. I shall put these questions to the jury, which, as Sir Henry says, I cannot insist upon your answering.

His Lordship then put the questions as to whether the trade mark used by defendants so closely resembled that of the prosecutors as to be calculated to deceive and as to whether the trade description being false they had taken every reasonable precaution and that there was no intention to defraud on the part of the defendants.

The jury returned after an absence of twelve minutes and the foreman (Mr. Logan) announced that by six to one they had found that the defendants were not guilty.

Sir Henry—I have to ask your Lordship to exercise your powers under the section and award costs to the defendants.

His Lordship—Well, it is my turn now. I think it was the biggest fraud I ever came across in this Colony. I shall certainly not award any costs.

Wednesday 29th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR F. PIGGOTT).

"CRIMINAL CONVERSATION" ACTION.

The action brought by Thomas Alexander Mitchell against John Lemm was a trial of issue of law. The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Stevenson, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston, appeared for the defendant.

The statement of claim was:

(1) The plaintiff is a master mariner in the employment of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Ltd. of which Jardine Matheson and Company Ltd. are the agents in this colony.

(2) The defendant is an architect of No. 64 Queen's Road Central, Victoria.

(3) The defendant on the 12th and 13th days of October 1904 and on the 11th and 12th days of December 1904 and on divers other dates before and after the said date, wrongfully, wickedly and unjustly debauched and carnally knew one Henrietta Maud Mitchell, then being the wife of the plaintiff and bearing his name.

(4) In consequence of the said misconduct of the defendant with the said Henrietta Maud Mitchell the plaintiff took legal proceedings in the First Division of the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Scotland, against the said Henrietta Maud Mitchell, his wife, praying for a divorce from her on account of her misconduct with the said defendant.

(5) Eventually, namely on the 7th day of November, 1906 and after evidence as to the said misconduct had been taken on commission in Hongkong, the said Court found that improper conduct between the defendant and the said Henrietta Maud Mitchell had been proved and pronounced a decree of divorce against the said Henrietta Maud Mitchell accordingly.

(6) The costs which the plaintiff has either paid or become legally liable to pay of and incidental to the said divorce proceedings amount to the sum of \$15,175. 0.

The plaintiff therefore claims (1) Payment by the defendant to the plaintiff of the sum of \$10,000 as damages for the improper conduct of the defendant in connection with the said Henrietta Maud Mitchell and also payment by the defendant to the plaintiff of the further sum of \$15,175.40 being special damages incurred by the plaintiff of and in connection with the said divorce proceedings.

Mr. Slade said they appeared to argue a question of law which arose on the pleadings, a question which was raised under the modern practice in the place of the old demurring. He was in fact demurring to the statement of claim as disclosing no cause of action which was triable in that court. The cause of action was set out in paragraph 3, and paragraph 5 set out that decree had been pronounced and stated the amount of costs which had been paid by the plaintiff. These were items of special damages. There was no original claim upon the divorce proceedings because the defendant was not a party to them. As his Lordship would see \$10,000 was claimed from defendant for improper conduct in connection with Henrietta Maud Mitchell and the further sum of \$15,000 was claimed as special damages incurred by the plaintiff in connection with the said divorce proceedings. The plaintiff took proceedings against his wife only. The defendant was not a party to these proceedings.

His Lordship—He was not a party?

Mr. Slade—No.

Mr. Pollock—He was not within the jurisdiction of the court in Scotland.

Mr. Slade—That is a matter which we need not argue now.

His Lordship—I don't know what the point of law is.

Mr. Slade—We are agreed he was not a party. Now, my Lord, this cause is the old cause as to criminal conversation, a short history of which is given in Pollock on the Law of Torts. Mr. Slade quoted the old law which regarded a wife as not being a free agent as regarded her husband who could bring an action against an adulterer for damages in the same way as an action for damages for trespass could be raised. This was purely a common law cause. He argued that the Act of 1857 abolished the jurisdiction of the Common Law Courts with regard to actions for damages by a husband against a man who has committed adultery with his wife and transferred the entire jurisdiction to the Court for divorce and matrimonial causes. Up to 1857 a cause for criminal conversation could be brought in England in the Common Law Court but after that year it was abolished and the jurisdiction conferred on the Probate and Divorce Court. The jurisdiction of the Court in Hongkong was regulated by the Supreme Court Ordinance of 1873, and in

dealing with that at length he argued that any law in force in England, which had been repealed by the local Legislature was a law which was inapplicable to the circumstances of the Colony.

His Lordship—It has never been decided.

Mr. Pollock—I think it has been decided in a way contrary to what my friend contends.

Mr. Slade added that before that Ordinance was passed a Bill was passed in England repealing all the archaic criminal laws of England and that Act was subsequently extended to this Colony by an Ordinance of the Legislature. Any other interpretation would work frightful chaos in our law. A law was inapplicable if it had been repealed by the local Legislature.

His Lordship—You mean this does not revive old laws which were repealed by the Act of 1873.

Mr. Slade—Yes. Proceeding he said that the court had no jurisdiction to entertain this action. Any jurisdiction which the Court had had been abolished by the Ordinance of 1853 and had not been revived since, and he argued that it was clear from the statutory law in the Colony that action for criminal conversation, had been abolished here and the equivalent action which had been given in England had been deliberately withdrawn from the courts of the Colony. There was no jurisdiction to entertain the action.

Mr. Pollock submitted that section 9 of the Interpreting Ordinance did not apply to the circumstances of the present case. His Lordship would see that that Ordinance provided that it should not be considered as reviving any enactments previously repealed unless words were added expressly providing that. They had to turn to the Ordinance of 1858, upon which his friend relied. That Ordinance did not purport to repeal any previous enactments but on the contrary it obviously purported to extend to the Colony certain provisions contained in various Imperial enactments. Therefore he would submit that it was clear that the provisions of section 9 of the Interpreting Ordinance of 1897 were not applicable to the circumstances of the present case. In other words Ordinance 5 of 1858 being repealed by the Ordinance of 1860, the force of Ordinance 6 of 1845 as regarded bringing an action for damages for criminal conversation was continued by the Ordinance of 1860 and continued at the present time. Were it not so a man who sought damages for criminal conversation would have no remedy.

His Lordship—Supposing in 1848 there was an act giving the right to bring an action in this Colony, and it was expressly destroyed in 1858 and that the destroying statute was itself destroyed in 1860, does that revive the right of 1848?

Mr. Pollock—Yes.

His Lordship pointed out that Hongkong being a ceded colony there was no common law here. The common law of England was introduced here by statute and therefore became statutory law.

Mr. Pollock continuing said that the defendant could not be joined in the divorce proceedings in Scotland, and this was the only course open to them. His friend contended that the Act of 1897 restricted their right to bring an action for the recovery of damages and yet they were not to have the alternative right under 33.

Judgment was reserved.

Thursday, 30th April.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LEAVE TO APPEAL.

An application was submitted to their Lordships (Sir F. Piggott, Chief Justice, and Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Acting Puisne Judge) for leave to appeal to the Privy Council in the case Chan Wo and others v. Chan Yam and others. This was an appeal from the decision of the Full Court on July 2nd 1907, arising out of a claim by the appellants for \$4,58 paid into court being part of a sum of \$12,000.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Sergeant of Messrs Wilkinson and

Grist, appeared for the appellants, and Mr. M. Slade instructed by Mr. G. R. Hall Brutton, appeared for the respondents.

Mr. Pollock said the decision of the Full Court was to the effect that the defendants excluded the debt from their assignment to the plaintiffs.

Mr. Slade argued that the appellants had not completed their security within the three months stipulated by the rules of the Court.

Their Lordships reserved their judgment.

HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The third annual general meeting of the Horticultural Society was held in the music room of the City Hall, on April 30th, the business being to receive the annual report and elect a Committee and officers for the ensuing year. Mr. J. Barton presided over a meagre attendance.

The report stated:

Two shows were held during the year, a chrysanthemum show on the 14th November, 1907, and the annual flower and vegetable show on the 26th and 27th February, 1908. Both shows were held in the Botanic Gardens.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.

There were 54 entries by 14 exhibitors in 24 classes. 19 prizes were won between 6 exhibitors. The Peak flowers for which special classes had been arranged were a failure, no prizes being awarded. The net cost of the show was \$322.95.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

Year.	Entries.	Exhibitors.	Classes.	Prizes won.	No. of exhibitors winning prizes.	Highest No. of prizes won by one exhibitor.
1907	651	55	134	150	34	31
1908	422	43	102	149	29	19

The Chinese Market gardeners again failed to exhibit in the vegetable classes specially set apart for them, and it is proposed to omit these classes in the next schedule.

The judging of the general exhibits was done by Messrs. J. Barton, D. W. Craddock, S. T. Dunn, and W. J. Tatcher. Of the garden by Messrs. J. Barton, S. T. Dunn, L. Gibbs and H. H. Gompertz, and of the table decorations by Mrs. Pollock and Mrs. Turner.

The winter was not a favourable one for flowers, the early part being unusually wet and warm and the two months before the show having much more than the average rainfall. A very fair show of flower was however produced. Some of the special features being carnations shown by Mr. Looker, some very fine roses grown by Mrs. Makeham at Pokfulam and primulas shown by Mr. Choa Leep Chee. And among the vegetables some broad beans were put in as a special exhibit by Sergt. Kerr.

The net cost of the show amounted to \$431.45.

The thanks of the Society are due to the following who kindly presented prizes or gave contributions to the prize fund:—H. E. Sir Frederick Lugard, H. E. Major-General Broadwood, Sir Paul Chater, Mrs. Ho Tung, Mrs. Turner, Messrs. J. Barton, Chau Sin Kee, Choa Leep Chee, D. Dorabjee, S. T. Dunn, Fung Wa Chun, L. Gibbs, Ho Kom Tong, Ho Tung and H. E. Tomkins. Also to the Police Department who supplied constables to take charge of gates during both shows and to the Botanical and Forestry Department for assistance in staging the exhibits.

From the statement of accounts it will be seen that the year's working resulted in a loss of \$68.31. It will be seen however that without the expense of the chrysanthemum show the Society would have been about \$250 to the good on the year's working, but it should be noted that \$140 of this belongs properly to the previous year. The committee have decided not to hold a chrysanthemum show in the autumn, as the attendance at the last was exceedingly poor and the funds of the Society do not admit of the necessary expenditure.

The membership shows a satisfactory increase, the ordinary members now number 108 as against 66 at this time last year.

On the 21st March, Sir Paul Chater kindly invited the members of the Society to visit his garden in Conduit Road and several availed themselves of the privilege.

In accordance with rule 4 the committee retire but, with the exception of Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Turner, offer themselves for re-election.

The following office bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Mr. Barton, President; Mr. Gibbs, Secretary; Messrs. Cho Lip Chi, D. W. Craddock, S. T. Dunn, H. H. Gompertz, W. J. Tatcher, Mrs. Sudar, Mrs. Boll, Mrs. Gibbs and Mr. Ho Kam Tong Committee.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

April 13th.

With reference to my last remarks on the unreasonable extent of anti-Japanese sentiment in North China, a significant incident has just occurred in this region. Your readers will have read a Reuter's telegram circulated in the second week of the month giving news of a fracas in the United States Consulate-General at Moukden. Nothing about it was published locally till Reuter's telegram was received a few days ago. Reuter said the news was published in New York. What appears to have happened was this: a young and enterprising newspaper correspondent was travelling through Manchuria on behalf of an American paper, and sent a telegram to his journal about the Moukden incident. This was published in New York and telegraphed to London, whence Reuter sent it to China.

It is a singular thing that this news of what happened on our doorstep should reach North China only after having been wired right round the world. Still more singular is it that such a trivial incident was ever telegraphed at all. The affair at Moukden was merely a vulgar brawl between the Chinese coolies of the American Consulate and the Japanese postman and some of his fellow-countrymen whom he summoned to his assistance. Naturally the United States Consul-General complained to the Japanese Consul-General, and a series of communications were exchanged between them; but the matter was a very insignificant molehill out of which to try to construct a mountain. The American newspaper correspondent, anxious to distinguish himself no doubt, seems to have jumped at this incident as providing, plus an active imagination, good copy at a time when things were pretty dull. So he made an international and diplomatic incident of it, putting the blame on the Japanese, and leaving it to be inferred that the matter must be taken up by the Legations and an apology extracted from Japan before the incident could be considered settled.

The matter must be regarded, however, by all fair-minded people as a glaring instance of the prejudice which exists, especially in Manchuria, where the Japanese are naturally pushing ahead in their own interests, and especially among Americans, whose piecemeal trade has been badly hit by Japanese competition amongst foreigners against the Japanese.

Another instance of this prejudice is afforded by the way in which many foreigners have chuckled at the Canton boycott agitation which was a sequel of the "Tatsu Maru" incident. In every possible way it was sought to encourage the local Chinese in this province and in Manchuria to institute a boycott of Japanese goods. Here as elsewhere in China many of the most prominent officials and wealthiest merchants are Cantonese, and it was thought by the anti-Japanese foreigners that these men would be easily urged to impose a boycott on Japanese trade.

But they reckoned without their host. H. E. Yuan Shih Kai from the Foreign Office in Peking and H. E. Yang, the Viceroy of Chihli, issued instructions and warnings against any boycotting movement, and these have been loyally and generally observed by all Chinese. Their Excellencies had mainly if not entirely in view, doubtless, political consideration; but the end they sought and obtained was no less desirable from an economic point of view.

Mr. J. R. Brazier, (Commissioner, I.M.C., detached) formerly head of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, who resigned that position when the British Government decided to stop the immigration of Chinese coolies to the South African mines has just returned to Tientsin after a holiday in England. He has been appointed agent and general manager in China of the Peking Syndicate, in succession to Mr. George Brown, who is going home and will, it is said, take the place of Mr. Jamieson in London as manager in England. Mr. Brazier, with or without his own consent, was one of the candidates—amongst whom also were Mr. Jamieson and Mr. J. O. P. Bland—nominated by the Shanghai clique and a section of the China Association in the Far East and in England for succession to the Inspectorship-General of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs in opposition to Sir Robert Bredon. This opposition to Sir Robert Bredon was much stronger than the generality of the lay public are aware, and, although Sir Robert has temporarily gained the victory, is still being carried on, in the hope that, before the actual retirement of Sir Robert Hart, which is anticipated with perhaps more eagerness than the actual circumstances justify, the decision of the Shui Wu Chiu and Empress Dowager in favour of the Inspector General's brother-in-law may yet be reversed.

Next to the trade depression the question of River and Bar improvement is the most absorbing topic of discussion in Tientsin. There are two camps: the Haiho Conservancy Commission and the merchants, who want to improve the port and so continue and enhance the prosperity of Tientsin, and the shipping interest (comprising the big firms whose head offices are at Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore as well as the local tug and lighter owning firms), who are reluctant to contribute towards an expenditure which they fear will result in the non-employment of the small steamers at present employed in the local trade as well as of the tugs and lighters and will introduce the competition of larger and more up-to-date and more economically worked vessels. To these a continuance of present conditions is good enough, for even if the port should silt up, as it threatens to do unless improvement works are quickly instituted and carried out, their purpose would be still served by lightering at Taku Bar or even by discharging at Chinwangtao. This last, of course, is a policy which Major Nathan, the agent and general manager of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. (which owns Chinwangtao and wishes to develop it) seeks to encourage.

TOKYO MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

The following digest of the report to the shareholders is supplied by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, the Hongkong agents.

Profit and Loss Account 1906 and former years.—The balance in hand on this account at the beginning of the year was Yen 4,641,620; during the year the total disbursements have amounted to Yen 415,016. The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of four Yen per share out of this account, which will absorb Yen 24,000 and that the balance of Yen 3,986,604 be carried forward.

Working Account, 1907.—The net premium for the year amount to Yen 1,687,488 against which net claims and losses have been settled aggregating Yen 508,198; the expenses to amount to Yen 221,689. There therefore remains a balance of Yen 957,601, to which has to be added interest of Yen 395,016.

The surplus funds, in excess of capital, now amount to Yen 5,300,000.

In reply to a dispatch from the Waiwupu with reference to the non-acceptance of notes issued by Chinese Banks in Shanghai by the Foreign Banks, the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body in Peking has, it is reported, informed the Waiwupu that if the Government will guarantee the Bank notes in question, there would be no difficulty in their acceptance by Foreign Banks, etc.

V.R.C. SPORT.

The eleventh annual athletic meeting of the Victoria Recreation Club, held at the Happy Valley on the H. K. F. C. ground, on April 25th proved very successful. Despite the uncertain state of the weather, there was a good attendance, and as the various events were well filled, competition was keen and the exhibition of sport was decidedly good. The meeting was under the following management.

Patrons: His Excellency Sir F. Lugard, K.C.M.G., O.B., D.S.O.; His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton, K.C.V.O.; Commodore Stokes, R.N.; Hon. Mr F. H. May, C.M.G.

Judges: Messrs W. Armstrong, W.A. Crake, W. Logan, A. McKirdy, J. Rodger, M. A. A. Souza and Lt. Col. Broke, R. E.

Referee: Mr A. R. dger.

Handicappers: Messrs E. Humphreys, A. McKirdy, W. H. Williams and Dr E. H. Kew. Clerks of the Course: Messrs J. W. Bains and M. Melver.

Starters: Messrs A. R. Sutherland and E. M. Hazland.

Time-keepers: Messrs T. Meek and R. Henderson.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr R. Henderson.

Hon. Secretary: Mr F. Lammert.

The band of the 13th Rajputs, under Bandmaster C. T. Coke, rendered selections in the course of the afternoon. The result of the events are appended:

Long jump (three tries), prize presented by H.E. the Governor—1, A. C. Leith, 20ft 4½; 2, F. G. Carroll 20ft 1½. R. F. C. Master was third with 20ft.

120 yards flat race (handicap). First heat—1, Major Stephenson; (10 yards); 2, L. A. Ozorio (5 yards). Second heat—1, A. S. Kempthorne (4 yards); 2, L. G. Cordeiro, (7 yards). Third heat—1, A. S. Combes (3 yards). 1, J. H. Mead (4 yards). Final—1, A. S. Kempthorne; 2, L. A. Ozorio won by a foot. Time 12 2/5s.

High jump—1 (prize presented by H. K. Corinthian Yacht Club), P. Linton, 5 ft 3; 2 (prize presented by Messrs. Falconer and Co.), A. C. Leith, 5 ft 2. Five competitors.

100 yards flat race (challenge cup), presented by Dr. F. H. Kew. To be won three years before becoming the property of a competitor—1, (prize by Hon. Mr. H. Keswick), F. G. Carroll; 2 (prize presented by H. K. A. A. A.), H. L. O. Garret. Time 10-1/5s. This is the quickest time in which it has been run at these sports.

Boys Race, 100 yard handicap, open to all boys between 6 and 10.—1, (prize presented by Mr C. E. Warren), Master Atkinson; 2, James Bay. There was a false start and Master Stephenson won, and in recognition of his fine run Dr. Kew presented an additional prize for him.

Team race, 200 yards—1, H.K.A.A.A. (Linton, Kempthorne, Young and Wishart); 2, H.K.F.C.

Tug of War, open to Navy, Army, Volunteers, and Police. The "King Alfred" beat the men of the "Kent," and the 83rd Co. R.G.A pulled the 87th Co. In the final the soldiers beat the sailors.

Girls' race, 80 yards, handicap, open to girls between the ages of six and 10.—1, E. Armstrong; 2, P. d'Almada.

120 yards hurdle race, 10 flights. Previous winners penalised 2½ yards—1 (prize presented by Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart), P. Linton; 2, (prize by the Dragon Cycle Co.), L. J. Wishart. Time 18s. Wishart won last year in the same time. A. C. Leith was a good third.

Bicycle race, two miles, handicap—1 (prize presented by Mr D. Dorabjee), J. Forbes (scr.); 2 (prize presented by Messrs. Ah Ling & Co.), A. H. Carroll (200 yards); 3, (prize by Mr O. C. Moosa), J. R. Pereira (175 yards). Won on the line.

220 yards flat race, handicap. First heat—1, J. F. Castro, (scr.); 2, L. J. Cordeiro (7 yards). Second heat—1, A. Combes (4 yards); 2, L. A. Ozorio (7 yards). Third heat—1, A. S. Kempthorne (5 yards); 2, J. M. R. Pereira (8 yards). Final—1 (prize by the Staff of the China Sugar Refinery), Kempthorne; 2, prize by Lusitano F. C.), Combes. Time 23-3/5s. Very good time. Last year the winner was N. H. Alves.

Half mile flat race. Open to soldiers, sailors and police—1, L. Corpl. Dellow; 2, W. T. Ray, R.N.; 3, Gunner Thomas. Time 2-30-1/5.

440 yards flat race, challenge cup to be won three years before becoming the property of a competitor—1 (prize by Mr. H. N. Mody) L. J. Wishart; 2 (prize by the Oriental Hotel), P. Linton. At the last bend Garrett led from Linton, who, however passed into first place and Wishart, coming up, also at Garrett. At the post Linton stopped, and Wishart breasted the tape first. The race was awarded to Wishart, but it was understood the matter would be considered by the committee.

Girls race, 100 yards handicap, open to girls between 10 and 15—1, Gwen. Stephenson; 2, Dorothy Rodger.

Boys race, 440 yards, handicap, open to boys between 10 and 15—1, J. Remedios; 2, H. Castro.

Half mile flat race (scratch)—1 (prize presented by the Taikoo Club), T. M. Yuman; 2 (prize by Messrs. McKirdy and Crosbie), J. H. Mead. Time 2m. 15. Wishart was third. Last year's time, 2m 8-4/5s.

Sack race 50 yards—1, (prize by Messrs. Ruttonjee and Son), A. V. Barros; 2, A. E. Combes.

One mile flat race handicap—1, (prize by Sir Paul Chater), A. K. Ellis (90 yards); 2, (prize by China Mail), T. M. Yuman (scr. tob). This was a very good race. Ellis put on a fine sport in the last round and won by over ten yards. Time 5 12-2/5.

Consolation race 120 yards—1 (prize by Messrs Kuhn and Komor), D. Soares.

At the close Colonel BROKE, on behalf of the Committee, asked Mrs Rodger to present the prizes, a duty which was undertaken by that lady. She also handed over the prizes won in the cross country racing under the A. A. A. F. A. Biden, who won three races out of the five, received three small cups for each event and a large one for winning the aggregate and T. A. Yuman, who had won the other two, received two cups.

Mr. LAMMERT, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mrs Rodger for presenting the prizes and asked her to accept a beautiful bouquet. Cheers for Mrs Rodger were then given and a similar compliment to the V.R.C. closed the proceedings.

COMMERCIAL.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, April 30th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$980	to	—	per picul
Malwa Old	\$1000	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1020	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1060	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$1175	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$1135	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$—	to	—	do.

COAL.

The arrivals at Hongkong between the 15th April and the 1st inst., amounted to 65,675 tons. 5,000 tons came from Newcastle, N.S.W., 8,900 from Hongay, 3,945 from Cardiff, and the rest from Japan. The coals expected amount to 40,400 from Japan and 5,700 tons from Australia. All the cargoes, arrived and expected, have been sold.

Quotations are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$— to \$—	ex-ship, nominal
Australian	\$13.60	ex-ship, sellers.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00	ex ship, nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00	ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$6.50 to \$9.00	ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$8.00	ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75 to \$9.00	steady.
Labuan Lump	\$9.25	ex-ship sellers.

Messrs Wheelock & Co. of Shanghai in their latest report, state:—There has been no demand at all in this market during the last two weeks for Japan Coal and everything is very quiet. Prices remain unchanged; though they can really only be called "nominal;" arrivals have been fairly numerous and coal freights are firm especially to the South where some good rates have been obtained recently.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong, 1st May, states:—Early in the fortnight the sales noted below were reported, but since the dealers have shown little or no disposition to buy. Best spinnings of No. 10s and 20s are in short supply and special favourite chops of these counts have been taken at an advance of 50 cents to \$2 per bale on previous prices; medium and common threads form the bulk of present meagre stock and quotations are more or less irregular. Subsequently Exchange has taken a downward course and is steadily declining, and importers are firmer in their demand. Dealers, on the other hand, having almost satisfied their requirements by their heavy purchases of the last few weeks, are keeping entirely aloof and await developments, and a temporary lull is for the moment being experienced. Receipts during the interval are small and have been exceeded by the offtakes, stocks showing another satisfactory decrease on last figures. Bombay is reported strong. The market closes quiet but steady. Sales of the interval aggregate 6,529 bales, arrivals amount to 5,246 bales, unsold stock estimated at 19,500, and sold but uncleared yarn in second hands about 20,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—A trifling sale of 50 bales No. 10s at \$91 is reported. Japanese Yarn:—There is nothing doing in these threads. The Lottery Scheme seems to have been abandoned, and the Japanese Spinners Union has resolved upon a cessation of night work for three months besides a stoppage of work for five days and nights monthly to curtail production. Raw Cotton:—The market for both Indian and Chinese staple is almost lifeless. Holders of Bengal cotton are very anxious sellers and have conceded \$1½ per picul in price, at which reduction only some 170 bales have found buyers at \$22½. Estimated stock about 3,800 bales. There is nothing doing in Chinese descriptions. Estimated stock about 500 bales. Quotations are \$19 to \$22½ Indian, and \$21 to \$24 Chinese. Exchange on India has steadily declined in sympathy with silver and closes weak to-day at Rs. 134½ for T/T and Rs. 135½ for Post, showing a decline of nearly 6 points on last mail. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 87½. The under-noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 18th ultimo, viz:— Indian:—Market steady and prices maintained. Total sales about 4,000 bales with an estimated stock of 56,000 bales. Japanese:—Are in less enquiry, only 500 bales changing hands on the basis of Tls. 84 to 92 for No. 16s and Tls. 93 to 98½ for No. 20s. Local:—Are in better demand and sales of 1,500 bales are reported on the basis of Tls. 78 for No. 12s and Tls. 80 to 81 for No. 14s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s latest Piece Goods Report from Shanghai, dated 23rd April, states:—The fact that the Easter holidays have intervened since we wrote our last report has made no material difference to the market, which has remained in the same state of utter stagnation. There is no enquiry from anywhere, and all holders have to console themselves with the past knowledge that April and May are invariably dull months. This, of course, is but poor consolation, still it does leave a loophole for hope in the future. It is quite impossible to say which of the various theories that have been advanced to account for the apathetic state of trade is the right one, as no one Nation, or one commodity appears to be enjoying any advantages over another; everyone and everything seems to be in the same boat. The complaint that the North of China has been flooded with spurious Copper Coins to an enormous extent is undoubtedly a genuine one, and one that is difficult to counteract, which is another strong argument in favour of having one common coinage for the whole Empire, with its production under proper government control. Now the preposterous proposition is made that the Foreign Banks should recognise the paper notes issued by local Native Banks,—institutions that are more or less private concerns under no proper control and having not the remotest or fundamental idea of a proper constitution as is required by Foreign Governments before they will permit their Banks to circulate notes. This, shows the utter lack of knowledge of the most ordinary business methods that is to be found amongst the governing classes, and so is getting the country deeper and deeper into the slough of despair. The carrying out of the stipulations in the last Treaties made with China by the Foreign

Powers as to reforming the currency system, if it can be so called, now pertaining, is what Foreign traders of all nationalities should urge on their Governments, and until that is accomplished it is impossible to expect trade relations with China to be anything but unsatisfactory. It is some satisfaction to record that during the week telegrams have been received announcing that the negotiations going on for some time past now, between some of the European powers and Japan, respecting the recognition of trade marks in China, registered in their respective countries, are approaching a satisfactory conclusion. If that is done the registration of trade marks in China itself would be superfluous and thus one bone of contention would be disposed of. The question of over production in the Japanese Cotton Mills has been the subject of discussion there during the interval, and it is understood that an agreement has been come to amongst the Mills that they will either stop night work for three months, within the half year commencing from 1st May, or curtail their production by 27½ per cent, during that period, at their option, which should have a beneficial effect on the market during the next three dull months. That is a much more legitimate and business-like way of dealing with the present glut in the market. After animadverting on the market as above it is curious to turn to the particulars of this morning's Auction and find that the results as compared with last week look almost as though a sudden boom had set in! Moreover we understand clearances of these regular Auction purchases are going on quite satisfactorily. Weather conditions are improving and we do not hear of any complaints respecting the crops. There is no particular news from the Out Ports, but Newchwang is still doing a little in American goods and Yarn, in the former, however, entirely from second hands, Tientsin is very quiet. It is rumoured that some of the stock of fancy goods there which were imported direct are being re-exported for sale on this market. Clearances for both the coast and river ports might be a good deal better. The excess of Deliveries over Imports in the last two Reports is very noticeable, and makes quite an appreciable diminution in the stocks. The weakness of the Manchester market is so apparent that operators here think it advisable to hold off for the present and see what it will go to if left alone. There is nothing to support it, the demand from India being almost as bad as that from China. Meanwhile Cotton is falling away, although the public quotations seem scarcely reliable. A fall to 5.38d. for Mid American and then an advance the next day to 5.52d. with the remark that the market was dull certainly looks as though the former quotation might have been misstated for 5.53d! Egyptian is down an eighth to 7½d. However, Liverpool appears to be above New York where the latest quotations are 8.06 cents for both July and October. The January export to China was about the same as the corresponding month last year, namely 1,558,173 yards, according to the United States Monthly Summary of Trade. The local Yarn market is steady to firm and clearances are not unsatisfactory. The quotations for native Cotton are higher, which confirms the report that buying for Japan has commenced again.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 15th April, 1908.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls. 29.00
Do. Seconds	" 26.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected	" 22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" 7.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 10.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu	" —
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 10.75
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 11.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" —
Animal Tallow	" 10.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 14.50
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 17.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.50
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.30
Sea Oil	" —

Per P. & O. steamer *Pera*, sailed on 25th April, 1908:—For Antwerp:—10 bales hemp. For Manchester:—25 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—4 cases human hair. For London to Continent:—175 packages merchandise. For London:—30 cases camphor, 24 bales feathers, 1363 bales hemp, 151 bales waste silk, 933 rolls matting, 96 cases chinaware, 42 cases woodware, 150 casks preserves, 40 bales canes, 1 package rattan chairs, 1 case sick, 32 cases private effects curios, 19 packages empty cylinders.

Per M. M. steamer *Armand Behic*, sailed on 28th April, 1908:—For Marseilles:—200 bales soie, 50 bales dichets de soie, 3 caisses soieries, 47 colis cheveux, 30 caisses plumes. For Buenos Ayres:—2 caisses soieries. For Londres:—20 bales soie. For Lyon:—318 bales soie. For Diego Suarez:—31 colis provisions. For Tamarave:—17 colis provisions. For Genoa:—50 bales dichets de soie. For Zanzibar:—1 caisse curios and argenterie. For Barcelona:—3 caisses soieries. For Marseille:—31 caisses Ilang Ilang, 5 caisses chapeaux, 2 caisses cigares.

THE JAPAN TRADE.

From the Report of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade dated April 15th:—

Cotton Yarns.—No business whatever to report. Values of "grassed" are nominally Y. 30 per bale lower all round. The present depression is attributed to heavy stocks in dealers' hands and to the low price of Raw Silk.

Cotton Piece Goods.—Buyers have completely withdrawn, and are awaiting a further decline in Manchester.

Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—The market is quiet. Stocks are very heavy and deliveries slow.

Textiles Generally.—The market in all classes is utterly stagnant. There seems to be a slight hardening in the price of raw material, which, however, is still cheap compared with last year's values.

Raw Cotton.—No business to report.

Rice.—No change.

Metals.—The market remains quiet and only small contracts are being booked.

Window Glass.—Little or no business doing.

Kerosene Oil.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of April show Standard Oil Co.: Arrivals 100,000 cases, deliveries 13,500; Rising Sun Petroleum Co.: arrivals nil; deliveries 19,000 cases.

Sugar.—Prices have advanced slightly since last report, but business is still dull.

Flour.—Since last report the market has been a little more active. A slight decline has taken place in prices in America.

Wheat.—The market still remains dull.

SILK.

Raw Silk.—On the 6th inst. price for No. 1-1½ Shinsu Filatures fell to Y. 820, at which figure a fair business was done principally by European and Japanese exporters, whilst Americans still held aloof. Owing to this business holders are at the close somewhat firmer, and a slight advance in prices was anticipated.

Waste.—Since last report there has been more demand. Though transactions in good class Waste have not been large, prices are slightly firmer. Settlements from March 30th to April 12th, 3,500 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to April 12th, 26,900 piculs. Stock on April 13th is estimated at 13,000 piculs.

Habutai.—Prices for Kaga have continued with a downward tendency, though at the time of writing a slight reaction is taking place. The demand from America has been most unimportant, and the same may be said of the other markets. Prices for Echizen have not undergone much change since the commencement of the month, except for inferior goods which find very few buyers. There has been a demand for 36 inch goods from Europe, but nothing has been done for America. The efforts of the Foreign Piece Goods Association to improve the quality of the production from this district has already had a good effect as slight improvement has been shown. Prices at the last market for Kawamata show lower rates than previously, but there appears to have been very little business doing at all.

TEA.

The first samples of the new season's Teas have been shown in Yokohama, and show good quality. Total settlements at Yokohama from May 1st to April 14th amount to 101,899 piculs, against 101,309 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st May, 1908.—A fairly steady investment business has been transacted during the past week, and our market closes with a firmer tendency in most stocks. Barsilver has fallen to 24½d, and sterling exchange has declined in sympathy to 1/9½ T.T. The T.T. rate on Shanghai has continued steady, and without change at 7½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled firmer with fair sales at \$692½, and but few shares are now available at the rate. London continues to quote £73 10s. 0d. Nationals are without business, but are still enquired for at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—No business is reported in this section, and rates are practically without change.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have been booked at the improved rate of \$91, and are in further request. Hongkongs are still enquired for at \$310, but no shares appear to be available at the rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$29, and more shares can be placed at this figure; few shares, however, are to be obtained under \$29½. Indo Chinas are also firmer at \$38 and \$24 for the Preferred and Deferred combined after sales at the rate. China and Manilas and Douglas are procurable at \$16 and \$40 respectively, and Star Ferries at \$32 for the old, and \$18 new. Shell Transports have been booked at 45s. and close steady.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled steady at \$135 with sales, and close with a firmer tendency. There is no change to report in Luzons which remain at \$15.

MINING.—A further advance has been established in Charbonnages, for which \$560 is now off-red. Raubs are firm with buyers at \$8½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$103 and \$104, and close with buyers at the former rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have ruled steady with sales at \$52, and probable further buyers. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$9½, and Shanghai Docks at the improved rate of Tls. 82. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are slightly easier with sellers in the north at Tls. 223.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have again been booked at \$99, and Kowloon Lands at \$26. Humphreys' Estates have been booked at \$10 and \$10½, and close with buyers at \$10. We have heard of no business in West Points or Hongkong Hotels, which can still be procured at quotations. Shanghai Lands are unaltered at Tls. 114.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved in the north to Tls. 58, but other Shanghai stocks are unchanged and without business. Hongkong Cottons continue in request at \$10½, and it is probable that a higher rate would be paid.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been placed at \$10½, and China Providents at \$8.90 and \$9, the latter closing with buyers. Sales have also been effected of Dairy Farms at \$19½, Electrics at \$16½, and Watsons at \$10 and \$10½. Green Island Cements have ruled firm and sales are reported at \$10½ and \$10½ ex the final dividend of 75 cents per share for 1907 paid on the 27th ultimo, market closing with buyers at \$10½. Ices have sold and have further sellers at \$225. Repas have been fixed at the improved rate of \$33 at which the market closes steady. United Asbestos are wanted at \$13 and Peak Trams at \$13 and \$2 for the old and new issues respectively.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$692½
National B. of China	£20	£51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	11, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	(\$10)	\$6, buyers
China Provident	(\$1)	
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 58
Hongkong	\$10	\$10½, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 55
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 76
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 260
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$19½, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$52
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 82, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 223
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$13, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, sales x.d.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$175
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$96, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$225, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$33
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$240, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$91, sales & buy.
China Traders	\$25	\$36½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, buyers
North China	£5	Tls 78, x.d., buy.
Union	\$100	\$797½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$142½ x.d.
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$99, sales
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$26
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 114
West Point Building	\$50	\$19, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£25.250	\$560, buyers
Raub's	18/10	\$8½, buyers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$13, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$135, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$16, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	\$38, sales
Shell Transport Co.	£1	\$45, sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$18, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$15, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5
Watkins	\$10	\$2½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, sales
Wismann Ltd.	\$100	\$165
United Asbestos	\$4	\$13, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$12, sales & sel.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of Shanghai in their Share Report for the week ending April 23rd, say:—Business since our last, owing to the Easter Holidays, has been of a most trifling character, and there are practically no changes of any importance to record. The Banks were closed from Friday, the 17th to Monday, the 20th, inclusive. Banks, —Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A few shares have changed hands at \$710 with Exchange at 73. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/5½. Insurance.—There is no business reported. Yangtze Insurance. The old and new shares are on offer at \$165 and \$150 respectively. Shipping.—There are no changes to report. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. There are buyers of cash shares at Tls. 80, and a sale is reported for July at Tls. 83½. Shanghai and Hong-

kew Wharves. Some cash shares have changed hands at Tls. 224. A few transactions for June have taken place at Tls. 229 to Tls. 230. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. shares have improved to Tls. 16½. Lands.—Sales have been made at Tls. 114 and 115. The market closed with sellers at the latter figure. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons have declined slightly to Tls. 56 cash and Tls. 57½ June. Internationals have been dealt in at Tls. 55 and shares are wanted at this price. Laou Kung Mows we quote as Tls. 77½ nominal for cash. A transaction is reported at Tls. 82½ for June. Shanghai Gas Co. A single sale has been made at Tls. 108. Major Bros. Some shares changed hands in the beginning of the week at Tls. 35 for cash and subsequently sales were reported at Tls. 40. Maatschappij &c., in Langkats: There is no change to report in this stock, the nominal rates being Tls. 460 for cash and Tls. 470 for June. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.: Small lots have been dealt in at Tls. 88 for cash and May delivery. Kalumpung Rubber Co.: Shares are wanted at Tls. 42½. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. There are sellers at £10. 5/-. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz Ltd. Shares have been placed at \$23. Astor House Hotel Co. shares are wanted at \$21. Shanghai Horse Bazaar transactions are reported at Tls. 45 for cash. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Municipal Debentures have been dealt in at par. Chinese Imperial E. Loans. There are buyers at par. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf six per cent debentures have been placed at Tls. 99.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, April 1st.

LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2/3½
Credits 4 months' sight	2/3½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	182
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	134½
Bank, on demand	135
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	134½
Bank on demand	135
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	87½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	87½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	29½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	107½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	7½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	7 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	80½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.00
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$7.50
BAR SILVER, per oz	24½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$8.45 discount,
"	10 " "	8.75 " "
Hongkong	20 " "	8.00 " "
"	10 " "	8.25 " "

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st May.—There has been a limited demand for tonnage during the period, and freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul last; to Philippines, 4 fixtures of part cargoes at 24 cents per picul for 1 port; to South Coast Japan, 23 cents per picul last; to Java, no inquiry. From Bangkok to Hongkong, nothing doing. From North Coast Java to this, 20 cents per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul. Coal freights are steady. From South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$1.35; to Japan, \$1.65. From Hongkong to Canton, \$1.00 last; to Hongkong, \$1.40. The following are the settlements:—

Reidar—Norwegian steamer, 2,276 tons, Moji

to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Henrick Jensen—Norwegian steamer, 2,980 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.

Myrtledene—British steamer, 1,620 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton.

Tingsang—British steamer, 1,045 tons, Moji to Amoy, \$2.25 per ton.

Kopsang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Waka-matsu to Canton, \$2.40 per ton.

Kouclon—German steamer, 1,487 tons, Waka-matsu to Canton, \$2.40 per ton.

Providence—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, Pulo Laut to Pulo Bukum, \$2.50 per ton.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.3 per ton.

Oscar II—Norwegian steamer, 1,999 tons, Saigon to 1 port South Coast Japan, 23 cents per picul.

Kjeld—Norwegian steamer, 910 tons, Saigon to 2 ports Philippines, 27 cents per picul.

Uiv—Norwegian steamer, 844 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines (25,000), 24 cents per picul.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 70 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines (25,000), 21 cent per picul.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Taiwan—British steamer, 1,012 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. or New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April—	ARRIVALS.
23.	Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Focchow.
23.	Manica, British str., from Moji.
23.	Singao, British str., from Haiphong.
23.	Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
23.	Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
23.	Victoria, Swedish str., from Kara-su.
24.	Brisgravia, German str., from Singapore.
24.	Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
24.	Namsang, British str., from Yokohama.
24.	Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.
24.	Sumatra, British str., from London.
24.	Taming, British str., from Manila.
24.	Torge Viken, Norw. str., from Newcastle.
24.	Yingchow, British str., from Shanghai.
25.	Canton, Swedish str., from Gotenburg.
25.	Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
25.	Johanne, German str., from Tientsin.
25.	Knivaberg, German str., from Hoihow.
25.	Marcellus, German str., from Moji.
25.	Pera, British str., from Shanghai.
25.	Ragnar, German str., from Bangkok.
25.	Stettin, British str., from Singapore.
25.	Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.
25.	Yatorofu Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
26.	Amara, British str., from Swatow.
26.	Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
26.	Chongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
26.	Hailan, French str., from Haiphong.
26.	Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
26.	Helene, German str., from Swatow.
26.	Hongwan I. British str., from Hongkong.
26.	Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
26.	Skramstad, Norwegian str., from Tabaco.
26.	Tungus, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
26.	Zillah, British str., from Xmas Island.
27.	Glenturret, British str., from Shanghai.
27.	Hokuto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
27.	Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
27.	Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
27.	Liberia, German str., from Shanghai.
27.	Myrtledene, British str., from Hongkong.
27.	Shahsing, British str., from Shanghai.
27.	Sikh, British str., from Shanghai.
27.	Yangtze, British str., from Liverpool.
27.	Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.
27.	Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
28.	Dunbar, British str., from Moji.
28.	Ithaka, German str., from Wuhu.
28.	Nord, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
28.	Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Kuchinoza.
28.	Yuensang, British str., from Manila.

- 29, Caraveltha, French str., from Cardiff.
 29, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 29, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
 29, Delta, British str., from Bombay.
 29, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 29, Eastern, British str., from Australia.
 29, Haiohing, British str., from Coast Ports.
 29, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 29, Kalomo, British str., from New York.
 29, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 29, Progress, German str., from Hongay.
 29, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 29, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 30, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
 30, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, Kalgan, British str., from Chefoo.
 30, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 30, Onsang, British str., from Singapore.
 30, Yunnan, British str., from Chinkiang.

April— DEPARTURES.

- 23, Amiral Duperre, Fr. str., for Shanghai.
 23, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
 23, Benavon, British str., for Nagasaki.
 23, Chingtu, British str., for Kobe.
 23, Dakotah, British str., for Haiphong.
 23, Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
 23, Machaon, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
 23, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 23, Tjiliwong, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
 23, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., for Chinkiang.
 24, Kowloon, German str., for Nagasaki.
 24, Kwellin, British str., for Ningpo.
 24, Machew, German str., for Swatow.
 24, Phenumpenb, British str., for Saigon.
 24, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Australia.
 24, Shantung, British str., for Hongay.
 24, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 24, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25, China, American str., for San Francisco.
 25, Empire, British str., for Australian Ports.
 25, Fukura Maru, Jap. str., for Hankow.
 25, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
 25, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
 25, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 25, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 25, Sumatra, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Taishan, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Triumph, German str., for Penang.
 26, Brigravia, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, Canton, Swedish str., for Shanghai.
 26, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 26, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 26, Dufferin, Brit. transport, for Singapore.
 26, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 26, Kiukiang, British str., for Ningpo.
 26, Mandal, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 26, Neil Macleod, British str., for Manila.
 26, Nerite, Dutch str., for Hankow.
 26, Pera, British str., for Singapore.
 26, Phuyen, French str., for Hongay.
 26, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
 26, Stettin, British str., for Taientan.
 27, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 28, Armand Behic, Fr. str., for Europe, &c.
 28, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., for Singapore.
 28, Glenturret, British str., for Saigon.
 28, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 28, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
 28, Knivsberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 28, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Manica, British str., for Saigon.
 28, Shantung, German str., for Swatow.
 28, Shibano Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 28, Sikh, British str., for Manila.
 28, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 28, Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
 29, Drufar, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 29, Fukushima Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 29, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 29, Hongwan, British str., for Amoy.
 29, Huichow, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
 29, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 29, Liberia, German str., for Singapore.
 29, Loyal, Ger. str., for Cowie (Brit. Borneo).
 29, Michael Jensen, German str., for Moji.
 29, Ningchow, British str., for Saigon.
 29, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 29, Yangtze, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Yetorofu Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 30, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 30, Delta, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Hilary, German str., for Saigon.
 30, Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 30, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
 30, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS

ARRIVED.

Per *Delta*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr R. F. Mitchell; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Gedga, Mr and Mrs Parry, and Mr Muraster; from Gibraltar, Capt. and Mrs Marques, and Mr C. Marques; from Bombay, Col. and Mrs A. Beale, Miss H. Dixon, Capt. Meiklejohn, and Mr Whigham; from Penang, Messrs. C. F. Stephens and H. A. Hope; from Singapore, Col. and Mrs Morgan, valet and maid, Messrs. Karlsen and W. Peel; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs Dady and child, Mrs Garkin, Messrs. W. Benson and A. E. Yates; from Marseilles, Messrs. D. Hawkshaw & A. Strover; from Bombay, Mr C. D. Weber; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Rouva, Messrs. F. Gilliar, Champney and Symons; for Yokohama, from London, Mr and Mrs Jordan; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Thom and child; from Bombay, Mr E. B. Mackenzie; from Singapore, Mr H. Mahr.

Per *Sumatra*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr and Mrs Grieg, child and amah, Mr and Miss Shaw, Mrs Aldrich and 4 children, Mrs Kempton and 2 children, Lt. John White, R.N., Lt. V. R. Buice, Sergt. Maj. Williams, Messrs. S. J. Staples, E. T. Marshall, W. H. Patchen and F. Merchant; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Hurry, Messrs. J. M. Brett and A. B. Selmar; from London, for Manila, Messrs. G. Allan and F. Huret; for Shanghai, Mrs D. Brown, Mrs S. Turner, Mrs Lyle and 2 children, Dr. A. Lang-Murray, Sergt. Fallis, Private Taylor, Jack, Kingley and Reid, Messrs. F. Coates, P. O. Reynolds, L. Smith & A. H. Leslie; for Yokohama, Miss M. James, Messrs. Bond and J. Asgazi; from Penang, for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs B. Mitchell.

Per *Inaba Maru*, from Japan, &c., for Hongkong, Mr and Mrs A. E. de Caldas & 2 children, Capt. C. W. Castle, Messrs. Nicol McIntyre, A. E. Gutierrez & T. Todoroki; for Singapore, Mrs T. K. Toh, Messrs. Morrison and I. Tsuda; for Marseilles, C. L. K. Suiba, Messrs. K. Akiyama, S. Machida, J. Imai, J. Yamamoto and Y. Naide; for London, Mrs W. K. Wilson, Mrs Cox, Mrs W. Y. Showler and 2 children, Mrs J. Suenson, Misses Wilson, A. Suenson, F. Suenson, E. Suenson and V. Suenson, Capt. R. T. Toke, Master H. H. Wilson, Messrs. Douglas Abby, T. Nakazawa, S. Akimoto, M. Seki, Edwin P. A. Wright and T. Inouye; for Antwerp, Mr F. B. Schulerud.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr & Mrs Dupuy; from Aden, Messrs. Muller, A. Pachero and M. de Resend; from Colombo, Mrs Miller, Mrs Constantine, and Mr Louis McLaughlin; from Singapore, Messrs. Nagel, Leonel H. Faber and P. Nalin; from Saigon, Messrs. Fanesunier, Ohta and P. Mesney; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs J. F. Inch, Messrs. F. Inch, G. F. March and Paoli; from Port Said, Mrs E. Bruckner; from Colombo, Mr Pedemunti; from Singapore, Messrs. W. G. Baku, Negar, Mares Blamin and Moche; from Saigon, Misses Jeannette Loubec, Victoria Silvermann and Rion, Messrs. Tringualbu and Grci Felix; for Kobe, from Colombo, Mr Y. Nakai; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs Robin; from Saigon, Messrs. Germoni & Thomas.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Lieut. Martin de St. Leon, and Mr A. C. Cartes; from Shanghai, Capt. F. Rafen, Messrs. Moir and boy, Frank A. Slawe, Halette and H. Mao Dongall; for Saigon, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Papa, Mrs Solange Chalois, and Mr Charles Victoria; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Boureau and child, Mrs Ross Mrs Swatz, Messrs. Anxion de Ruffe, Desna, Jubel and Le Penren; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Messrs. E. Ochnischer, Nishimura & Yamachita; for Batavia, from Yokohama, Messrs. Kerbert and Pleyte; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr Munchershow Buzansee; from Shanghai, Mr Vasunia, Soeurs Seraphine and Noemie; for Port Said, from Kobe, Mr J. Man-ou; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Trincavelli, Messrs. Leger, Baudoin, Pirion Jean, Guilici Dominique and Badourilla Jean; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Permezel, Mr and Mrs Taylor, 2 children and governor, Mr and Mrs Palazzi and 3 children, Mrs Lesage and 2 children, Mrs Azzaretti and child, Messrs. Moninot, Iwan Andersen, R. Brasier de Thuy, Tocher, Ballot, Mattei and Develotte.

Per *Kutsang*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr and Mrs Stockwell and 4 children, Major and Mrs Hayward, Rev. and Mrs Mott Keasley, Mrs and Miss Poinoy, Capt. Bramwell, Messrs. L. C. Daunt, G. E. Cresswell, W. H. Cooper and L. Komerann.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs C. D. Buck, and Mr T. P. Morley.

Per *Empire*, for Australian Ports, Mr and Mrs G. Lanzius and 2 children, Mr and Mrs Plesance, Mr and Mrs Williams, Mr. Mrs and Miss Waugh, Mrs Neidhardt, Misses Mellin, Olesome and L. M. Weigall, Messrs J. M. Butt, G. R. N. Rosser and R. J. Lea Wright.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, for Australia, &c., Mr and Mrs Arnowitz, Mr and Mrs Bunker, Mr and Mrs Duncan Clark, Mr and Mrs van Voakenburg, Dr. and Mrs Laughlin, Miss G. R. Whitmore, Rev. C. H. Brent, Consul Dr. Windschuch, Inspector J. von Riegen, Messrs. Enrique Barrera y Caldes, A. Brauckmann, Lindsay Clark, Fischer, Wilh. Fressel, D. B. Harrison, Werner Krafft, Miller, P. Morris, Thos. W. Newland, Ostby, A. Schulz, A. Sepp, Sudakoff, Julius Wahlen, H. Winsor, H. D. Woelfe and Simon Weinstein.

Per *China*, for San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs H. C. Beatty, Mr and Mrs E. J. Beard, Lt.-Com. and Mrs R. S. Douglas, Rev. and Mrs D. Park & child, Mrs C. M. Tozen, Mrs Glenn, Mrs W. Todd, Mrs F. Young, Mrs M. Atwood, Misses M. Hempstead, Hamlin, A. E. Beard and H. Montgomery, Lt. J. D. Rhodes, Col. Wm Paulding and family, Master F. Kendley, Messrs. F. A. Hollabaugh, Chas. H. Crooks, Meyer Weill, P. Leigh Hunt, Grilk, J. N. Boyd, E. Arnot, G. Sternberg, G. L. Park, G. V. Strong, C. S. Betton, P. J. Lauber, Nordersen, O. Meyer, T. Hatanaka, C. B. Stetson and A. Morphy.

Per *Inaba Maru*, for London, &c., Dr. & Mrs Lim B. King, Mrs and (4) Misses Suenson, Mrs and (2) Misses Wilson, Mrs Showler and party, Mrs E. K. Yin, Mrs T. Kodo, Mrs Cox, Mrs W. W. Pearce, Col. Shiba, Messrs. Almeida, Abbey, Morrison, H. M. Harrop, K. Akiyama, Jmai, M. Seki, T. Nakazawa, Akimoto, T. Inouye, Yamamoto, I. Tsuda, E. P. Wright, Bramwell, Achulerud and Jas. Kite.

Per *Shinano Maru*, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs Jalandoni and servant, Rev. and Mrs John E. Fee and 4 children, Col. and Mrs Brundaux, Capt. and Mrs Collingwood and 2 children, Lieut. and Mrs Davis, Misses Kemmler, Chiya and Hana, Rev. F. P. Hamii, Capt. Davy, Capt. Miller, Capt. O. L. Price, Lieut. Larga, Dr. P. G. Woolley, Messrs. Hanisch, Edwards, C. S. R. Privett, Cleve Callaway, J. A. Græwer and E. Gonsalves.

Per *Yarra*, for Shanghai &c., Mrs Robin, Mrs E. Bruckner, Miss J. Loubec, Miss V. Silvermann, Rev. P. Tallandier, Rev. P. Montmasson, Messrs. Thomas, F. Inch, G. March, W. G. Baku, Moche, Rion, G. Felix, R. J. Kaiser, A. R. da Roza, Carl Rozello, Daubrie, Germoni, J. Nakai, F. Inch, Paoli, Pedemunti, M. Blumm, Megar, Triquabler, K. E. Ruckdeschel, P. Kramer, Williams, Lam zel and C. L. Silze.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Marseilles, &c., Mr and Mrs Papa, Mr and Mrs Baureau and baby, Mr and Mrs Trincavalli, Mr and Mrs Permezes, Mr and Mrs Taylor and children, Mr and Mrs Palazzi, Mr and Mrs Tandil and baby, Mr and Mrs Coat and children, Mrs Suatz, Mrs Ross, Mrs Lesage and children, Mrs Azzaretti & baby, Mrs S. Chalois, Mrs L. Louis, Mrs Bazin, Miss Seraphin, Miss Nemie, Capt. Baudoin, Rev. P. Lazard, Messrs. C. Victorin, Jubel, V. Lucien, Herbert, Buzansee, J. Manasin, P. Jean, Bereschel, Nicolas, Moninot, R. Brasier de Thuy, Tocher, Poiret, d'Anxion de Ruffe, Deana, Le Penren, Bettinger, E. Oelmischer, Peyte, P. Vasunia, Leger, B. Jean, Carot, I. Anderson, Mao, Ballot, Matti, Derelotte, Salaün, l'Erfezon, Carion, J. W. Bolles, N. Schumacher, B. D. Tata, H. Ehmer, F. Guizien, Kerloch, Joly, Roch, T. J. Schlittler, Guizier, Duduy, Credon, Voquer, Parry, Burguerre, Dronet, O. Vojaich, P. J. Vasunia, Martin, Bars, Robin, Guimiard and Guilloux.

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